

*Ron van Dijks' newsletter offers many new facts about Square Dancing in Europe, so we feel committed to print it same as in previous years in the Bulletin and to give it a broader distribution. Unfortunately the space this time does not allow a German translation. The translation will follow in the next Bulletin.* The Editor

*Ron van Dijks' Rundbrief enthält eine Menge neue Nachrichten über Square Dance in Europa, deshalb möchten wir ihn wie in den Vorjahren gerne auch im Bulletin abdrucken. Leider reicht der Platz nicht für eine deutsche Übersetzung, diese folgt im nächsten Bulletin. Viele von Euch werden aber auch den englischen Text verstehen können.* Der Editor

Hello dance friends

Here we go again, we see the letters flow again.  
(after the song from 1940)

Yes, time for the next newsletter.

It is still increasing in size and to my opinion there are also more and more interesting subjects.

Both youth clubs from Germany and Sweden continued their appreciated contributions. The statistical overviews give more background on what they are doing.

For the first time ( with some help of "Wuffi") we have an article from our dance friends in Japan.

We knew that square dance is very much alive there and now we can read their numbers.

From Australia came through Mary Beerens a complete listing of all Clubs "down under" They also have set their conventions until 2017 (Remark Editor: This list is not included in this reprint of the European Newsletter because lack of space, but might later be available on the EAADC homepage)

The square dance school schedule as set up in Denmark is very interesting and I hope it is going to work. We all need new dancers.

Unfortunately Tomas Machalik had to apologize for not having a contribution to this newsletter.

In our own country the number of dancers and clubs are still declining. Our president Maarten Weijers told us at Winterwonderland (our Christmas Party) that we could be well be under 200 dancers next year.

He and his staff are looking into each and every possible way to stop this and turn it around to an increase. My new year's wish is that he will succeed

Corry and I wish you all a merry Christmas and a great 2015 in good health.

Happy dancing,  
Ron van Dijk  
Brandenburglaan 38  
NL 4333 BZ Middelburg  
E mail: [rvandijk@zeelandnet.nl](mailto:rvandijk@zeelandnet.nl)

issued December 2014



BAASDC  
BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN SQUARE DANCE CLUBS

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

Plans for the 2016 European Convention in Stratford-upon-Avon are forging ahead. The programme will be published soon once all the callers have agreed to attend.

Sadly we lost the editor of our magazine (who died in October) who also ran our web site, but we now have found a new web master and an Editor, so we hope to publish the magazine (Let's Square Dance) again very soon.

Our callers are proving to be very popular in mainland Europe so you can expect to see more brits dancing in Europe in 2015. I hope to visit Germany in March & September and Australia in April. I hope to attend the EAASDC 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations (if invited-Wuffi).

The BAASDC council has agreed to my plan to attract young dancers into Square dancing based on the system that Swedes use. I will keep you informed as my plans progress.

**Keep smiling,  
John**

John Webb  
President BAASDC JohnWebb338@aol.com www.squaredancing.co.uk

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DAASDC  
DANISH ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN SQUARE DANCE CLUBS



## Looking back from DAASDC's chair

2014 has been characterized by the European Convention. We have had a lot of preparations for this event, to meet the guidelines. We hope that we succeeded. In total more than 1000 dancers were gathered from near and far to the event. We jumped the start already on Thursday evening, where Johnny Preston visited us for an informal "Trail-in-Dance".

Camping facilities were offered just next to the exhibition center where the Convention took place. Many dancers took advantage of this, and several others booked local hotels, bed & breakfast and a like.

We had the great pleasure of welcoming 13 callers and 3 cuers entertaining us from the scenes. It was an amazing experience to walk around the five halls enjoying the dance. We also had some of the Danish clubcallers on stage to call the official trail-end- dance. Their entertainment was highly appreciated by the dancers.

We have this tradition in Denmark that clubs take turns organizing national conventions, while DAASDC stands in the wings as hosts. It is entirely up to the sponsoring club to arrange square dance conventions in cooperation with DAASDC according to the stipulated guidelines. At this convention the collaboration was perfect and a great joy for all of us.

A big thanks to "Hedens Square Dancers," who hosted the European Convention 2014 in Ikast, Denmark. THANK YOU to all the amazing people who attended the European Convention 2014: callers, cuers and dancers. You all participated in making this event a success. Now we are looking forward to the next European Convention in England in 2016.

### **Square Dancing on the School Schedule**

The next upcoming task for DAASDC is to address Danish primary schools! The Danish government has adopted an educational reform, which requires that all students in primary schools should have more exercise and movement. The schools are allowed to use external trainers/coaches to support teaching. It is obvious that we are going into the schools to present our activity to them.

We already realize, that we will not make children and youngsters joining our clubs easily. Hence we have to promote Square Dancing to them in their premises. In Denmark most children and youth have endless opportunities to pass free time. Denmark has a centuries old tradition offering associate activities for all people at reasonable costs. Therefore it is a gift for us, that we can supplement schools with reasonable offerings within Square Dancing.

We do consider that Square Dancing on the schedule will stimulate the children's concentration and help them practicing spaciousness and navigation. We also believe that for school children square dancing is an important collaborative exercise that can supplement the general subjects. And not to forget square dancing is movement set to music.

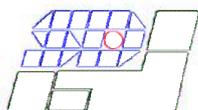
Our plan is to turn to schools and school boards in areas where we have callers who will participate in this project.

In DAASDC we hope that this will turn out as a "pilot project" that will – in time – develop for the joy of all of us ... and our children.

**Best regards**

**Lotte Vangsgaard, President DAASDC**

president@squaredancedanmark.dk      www.SquareDanceDenmark.dk



**JAPAN**

Square Dance in JAPAN

**President, Japan Square Dance Association (JSDA)**

**Kazusuke Okiyoshi**

Now, let me tell you some about square dance style in Japan through the activities conducted by the Japan Square Dance Association (JSDA) in this opportunity.

In June, this year of 2014, Tatsuzo Takase retired at his age of 85 after the 29 years' great achievement in tripling the membership during his presidency. Then, I was elected as successor of president of JSDA.

## **Japan Square Dance Association (JSDA)**

The Association originated as the All-Japan Square Dance Callers Council, which was formed in 1966, and developed into JSDA in 1980 as a non-judicial or voluntary organization. His Highness Prince Mikasanomiya Takahito supported the founding of JSDA and served as the Governor for 18 years from 1982 to 2000 to provide instrumental action for square dancing activities. With various supports by His Highness, JSDA aimed to contribute to quality, healthy lives of people by spreading square dance as lifelong sports/recreation.

According to this background, the Japanese government approved JSDA to be an entity to receive a tax deduction benefit for the specified mission of contributing to society and the general public by promoting square dancing as a Japanese General Incorporated Association on April 1, 2010.

## **JSDA Membership Statistics**

When JSDA was founded in 1980, it had 103 square dance clubs with 2,195 members. As shown in Figures 1 and 2, it is growing into 534 clubs and 14,520 memberships at April 1, 2014, including square dancers, square dance callers, and round dance cuers / instructors from all over Japan. Membership ratio of Female/Male is shown in Figure 3.

Please refer our home page. <http://www.squaredance.or.jp/english/>

## **Activities conducted by JSDA**

JSDA follows the Program Lists defined by CALLERLAB, and adopts JSDA Program Policy to adapt CALLERLAB Program Policy. In addition, according to the Program Policy Initiative by CALLERLAB, JSDA established "Community 25 Program" which consists of twenty-five movements out of the Basic Program - Part 1 in 2008. "Community 25 Program" is developed and served to various occasions such as one night stands and relatively short-period classes to enjoy square dancing.

JSDA conducts and supports various schools, workshops, clinics to improve the qualities and skills needed to callers, instructors, cuers, dancers and leaders that it is the most important for spreading square dance to the general public.

## **All Japan Square Dance Convention**

JSDA celebrated the 50th All Japan Square Dance Convention in Tokyo in August, 2011 with around 2,000 dancers not only from all over Japan but from Australia, China, Taiwan and a few representatives from overseas square dance organizations including CALLERLAB as VIPs. The Ghost Riders Band from US was also invited (Figure 4).

Now and hereafter, we would like to contribute for peace through the spread of Square Dance in cooperation with related foreign organizations and interchange with lover of the Square Dance.

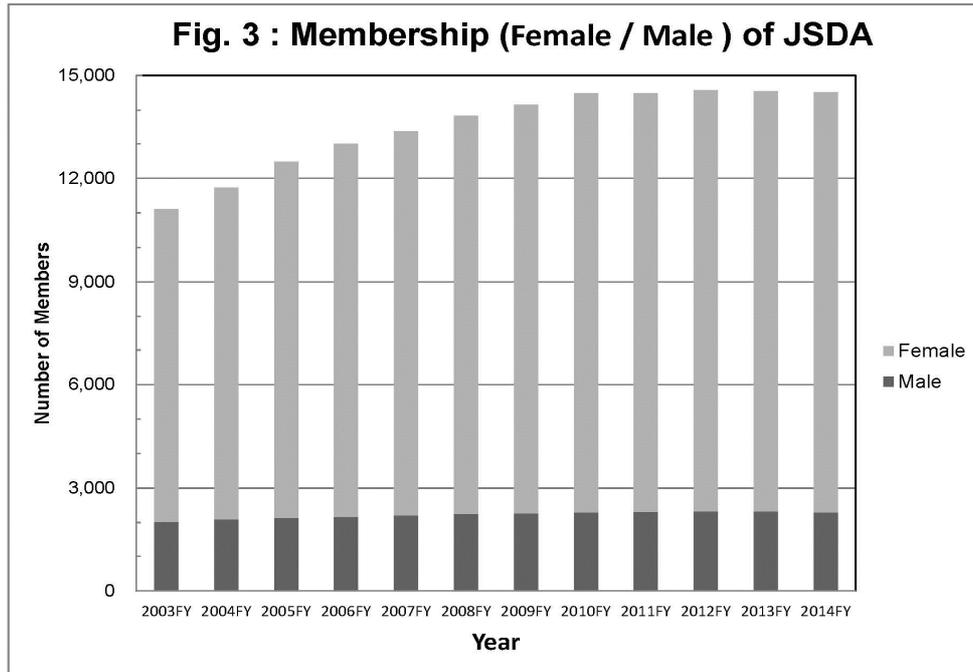
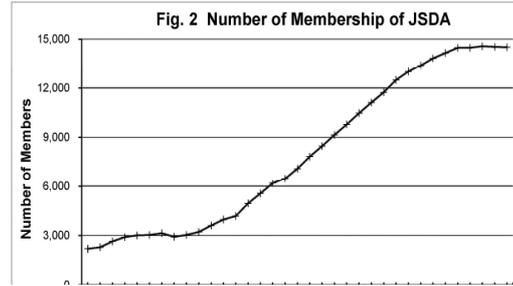
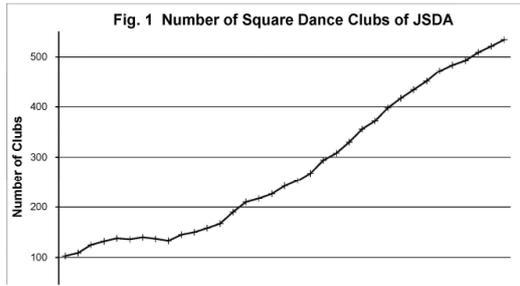


Fig. 4 50th All Japan Square Dance Convention in Tokyo, August, 2011



EAASDC

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN SQUARE DANCING CLUBS



## **EAASDC – What has happened in 2014!**

1. In 2014 EAASDC has lost 4 clubs but gained 12 new ones which leads to a total of 540 member clubs spread over Austria (7), Belgium (1), France (3), Liechtenstein (1), Netherlands (3), Russia (5), Slovenia (1), Switzerland (8) and Germany (511).
2. We have reached a number of 43 staff-members who are doing great volunteer work for the EAASDC.
3. Legal basics have been applied for by developing and implementing various by-laws.
4. New IT-software has been bought to assist in our office and financial work.
5. Our “EAASDC first aid team” has started to provide first aid support at Club-Specials for our member-clubs.
6. A “EAASDC hearing aid team” has been introduced (separate article).
7. We have implemented a financial fund to support activities of EAASDC and its members for Square Dance enhancements.
8. In October we started our first projects in some schools. Volunteers, who attended our seminars with teaching methods, provide 2 hours a week of day care along with Contra, Mixers and Square Dance intros. Our goal is to gain kids and their parents for our Square Dance scene thru these activities.
9. The EAASDC youth team has started to develop ideas and projects for young people already dancing in our clubs as well as attract new youth to come to us. For marketing purposes they opened a EAASDC youth side at Facebook, have taped a video with youth squares to publish, danced in a show on German TV and will provide youth dance-groups for special “youth-demos”.
10. The EAASDC “lifetime honorary membership” as recognition of special contribution was presented to Eberhard and Traudel Walz for the successful start and development of Square Dance in Russia (separate article)
11. EAASDC sponsored a youth-special in Stuttgart (separate article)
12. The Beaux & Belles, one of three still existing founding members of EAASDC, celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 27. Sept. 2014 and therefore received the “EAASDC Certificate of Achievement”.
13. EAASDC will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary 4.-6. September 2015 in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, and invites all dancers to come and join us. (separate flyer and qrcode)

We still have lots of ideas and we will work tirelessly and with all the positive energy of our big family towards an exciting Square Dance future. We know it's worth it.

In this sense I wish everybody relaxing and harmonious holidays and many more new years with great ideas, good health, a lot of positive energy, the necessary calmness and the so important dose of humor for a hearty laugh from time to time.

Merry x-mas and a Happy New Year!

Wolfgang “Wuffi” Daiss

President EAASDC



NVSD

NEDERLANDSE VERENIGING VAN SQUARE DANSERS

Dear friends,

When I wrote my article for 2013 on the way home from the 60th anniversary of the BAASDC, I mentioned that 2014 must be the year of change; otherwise Square- and Round dancing would soon come to a stop... well, it didn't come that far, but unfortunately we did not have any changes either...

And again we lost a club. Not a member of the NVSD but it was a club that was active with Square dancing. The good news is: a new Rounddance club was founded and it became member of the NVSD. It is situated in Twello, not far from the Dutch-German border. Currently we have 14 clubs (NVSD and non-NVSD). Some Square, some Round and some clubs that are dancing Squares and Rounds.

We had some highlights this year: We started with the New Years Party, held by the Coast Riders who celebrated their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Furthermore we had the introduction to Real Hexagon Square dancing.

Last but not least we had the Callers Anniversary party of 70 years caller-experience (40 years Wil Stans & 30 years Maarten Weijers). At this dance, Wil Stans received a Royal decoration for his 40 years of calling & voluntary work and is today "Member of the order of Orange-Nassau".

When looking at 2015; we will have a goal to make Square- and Round dancing known to the general public. Last year, Tommy Hansson mentioned the following sentence in the 2013 Newsletter: If you are not visible, you don't exist. This is what we have as goal for the upcoming year. We really need to stop the decrease of dancers. I know this will take several years but we have to go through this process.

During the European Convention in Ikast, some dancers came to me with the question if we have any dances scheduled during the summer holiday. As no club is dancing during July and August, we currently don't have any dances. We are looking into the possibilities to organize a dance in August but so far no guarantees....

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

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

Maarten Weijers  
President of the NVSD

Maarten Weijers  
President NVSD, the Netherlands    [president@squaredance.nl](mailto:president@squaredance.nl)



Wil Stans Member of the Dutch Order of Oranje- Nassau with his wife Paula and the deputy-mayor of the city of Zaandam



SAASDC

SWEDISH ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN SQUARE DANCE CLUBS

## SAASDC

Dear friends all over. I hope that you all have had a nice and joyful dance year also in 2014.

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

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

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

One of the main issues for us during this year is to use modern communications through social media sites. We started early this year by launching a brand new homepage with focus on non dancers or newcomers. Later we also launched a page on Facebook. With those steps we hope to have broaden our marketing for squaredance.

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

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

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

Tommy Hansson

President SAASDC

President SAASDC    [Tommy@squaredans.se](mailto:Tommy@squaredans.se)    [www.squaredans.se](http://www.squaredans.se)

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LION SQUARES GERMANY

### My life with square dance and the Lions

When I started with the Class in 2012, I was the youngest member of the club. All the same I have had a lot of fun and on my first Special dances I met a lot of other young people. I found this very surprising because I had not expected that there were so many young people who like square dancing. Already at that time I wondered if there might be some network or something like that where you can keep in touch with others and gain new contacts at special dances.

But soon after my graduation, a member of the Lions invited me to join their club. I asked to explain to me what this is all about, as being a new dancer it was all unknown to me. I found it a very good initiative and have no regret of joining in. By becoming a member I learned to know a lot of people throughout Germany. When you come to a special and recognise the Lions Badge you immediately have a subject to talk about. I believe that we attract other young dancers, because we often dance a little bit "wild" and form a cheerful community.

Also by the older dancers the Lions have become well known nowadays. Our two very special club nights held during this year have certainly helped on that point. They were held in Krichheim/Teck (together with the Häbbie Hibbos) and in Hannover (together with the Happy Squares). Here one could get a signature in the friendship book as well as a Lions dangle. Many dancers took the opportunity to get in contact with the youth, so both nights had a large numbers of visitors. Most dancers in Germany know by now who the Lions are and what they do.

On top of that the Lions could organise their own annual youth weekend on May 9 till 11 in Berlin. Here the youth were together to strengthen their community. The callers were this year Thomas Rieger and Thomas Paul.

Further on the lions have got this year a new and modern home page. Under [www.Lionsquares.de](http://www.Lionsquares.de) you can find all important data and documents. By now the Lions Squares Germany have about 150 members.

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The Lion Squares Germany being a pure youth club promote and stimulate the young dancers. On specials dances the young dancers can often make arrangements to form their own squares. Beginning young dancers are integrated and encouraged to stay. The club delivers an important contribution to the youth requirement within square dancing and related dance forms. The youth is brought together and get their own voice. And of course we have a lot a great fun!

Membership spreading over Germany by post code ( PC)

We also have members from Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, The Netherlands, USA and Russia.

See you soon in a square

**Georg Seyboldt, Lions Squares**

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## SQUARE DANCING IN FRANCE CLUBS FRANÇAIS

### **The French (Square) Connection 2014**

The activity in France continues to grow outward slowly while reaching upwards in a way I didn't expect to see 5 years ago.

About 37 kms south of Paris the Line Dance Club « Jambalya Country Dance » has graduated a number of their dancers at the Mainstream level and the club teachers are already impatient to start learning Plus.

The « Ouest Paris Swingers started a second dance evening last year, keeping our experienced dancers on their regular club night of Thursday, they are now dancing full Plus and are starting to learn A1. The municipality managed to provide us another dance hall for beginner lessons on Friday evenings. This year we have a full square of new recruits, exercising with last years « confirmed beginners », some of whom have already

passed their graduation. The « OPS » organize a student dance at least once a year and an annual Special Dance.

Also in the Paris region, the « Lucky Boots », the Bunny Circles », and « Leaping Frogs » all have A1 evenings, some are learning (or have completed) A2, and some dancers have even started Challenge.

One of the dancers of « Leaping Frogs » is giving lessons officially in grade school to children in the age range of 8-10 years old. This is a new activity which we hope will assure young recruits and possibly open the eyes of their parents as well. Special dances are organised each year by « Ouest Paris Swingers », « Lucky Boots », and « Bunny Circles ».

The « Shooting Stars » (also near Paris) organised an afternoon get together about an hour and a half to the south of Paris this past October which managed to assemble many dancers of the Paris region with dancers of the « Circling Snails » of Bourgogne. The event was a success, to be repeated.

The clubs on the French Riviera are doing well, with new recruits each year and the levels also climbing within the clubs. « Funny Fish » are dancing and teaching levels up to A1. Their special dances attract many dancers from around Europe who appreciate the early spring warmth and sunshine of the Riviera. « Rainbow Diamonds » dance up to A2, and some members are dancing C1 as well. « Rockin' Family » continues to recruit and progress. Hopefully one day we will see special dances organised by each of the three clubs in the area.

In Gémozac, (the Cognac area of France) the « Gems Country » has started their second year learning Square Dance. They are highly motivated and have come all the way to the Paris area student dances on many occasions. They are working closely with another country dance club who started a Square Dance section. « Country West Oléron » have officially started giving lessons this year. I had a great opportunity to give initiation lessons to both groups last year, each initiation attracted 9 squares of dancers !

I was informed at the beginning of the summer that another Country Dance club near Toulouse is starting a section Square Dance. The « Calikat » club of Berat has started giving lessons this year. They have a small group who have learned some choreographies to give demo dances, and they are teaching themselves the essentials through DVDs.

Two of the activities founding members that many people in Europe have met (Paul and Bernadette Rivière) continue to give lessons at Saint-Etienne where they returned after retiring. They have a small group who continue to dance regularly on Wednesday evenings but haven't reached the size to organize a special dance in the area, yet.

I must mention also that we lost some high hopes recently for expansion in the Normandy area. Steven Lawrence, a fellow American well integrated in France over a number of years started to square dance with the various clubs in the Paris area. After spending some time with the Ouest Paris Swingers, he decided to give a hand at teaching and calling for « Paris Calling », and later for « Meudon Shooting Stars ». His job required him to leave the Paris area for Honfleur about 3 years ago. He started a club last year in Le Havre, the « Normandy Square Dancers ». Unfortunately, Steven passed away on Oct 31st. He was a really nice person, with a strong potential to develop the activity in the area.

Finally I will close out with a special « thank you » to Claude Tafin who has proposed his services to many clubs as web master and who graciously maintains a web site where all

Square Dance activity in France can be consolidated. You can find links to most clubs in France as well as various information in French on his website provided here :<http://square-dance.fr/ClubSquare/clubs%20square%20dance%20france.htm>

Hope to see you in a square in France soon.

Tom Mackler  
Ouest Paris Swingers

Editor: <http://www.theluckyboots.fr>  
<http://opswingers.square-dance.fr/>  
<http://pariscallingsquaredance.over-blog.com/>  
<http://bunnycircle.free.fr/>



## NEWS FROM SWEDISH BUFFALO SQUARES

### Another great year!

This year has been another great year for Buffalo Squares - the youth Square Dance Club in Sweden. Last year we launched a campaign of strength to show that we want to be involved and that we care about Square Dance. The first step was proclamation - we wrote articles, went public and created a Facebook page. The second step was action - we established our own beginner's class and taught young people how to Square Dance in just a weekend, we also organized dancing in public places. However, the third step was yet to be presented!

But first, let us summarize our Square Up Weekends! In September 2013 Buffalo Squares launched our first and very own beginner's class of Square Dance. We simply called it "Square Up!" We taught a group of young people how to Square Dance – in a weekend. A beginner's class that was adapted for young people with the intention to make them dance and get a fair idea of what Square Dance is all about. We did not just offer a course, but also a fun and delightful weekend, a highway straight into the heart of Square Dance. We wanted them to experience all the fun we have, right from the beginning.

We wanted to give them a feeling of belonging together. So we copied one of our successful Youth Dances, had an enjoyable weekend, with dancing, music, nice friends, good food and games. Now that's *Buffalo*, and that is how we wanted our beginner's class to be.

We have taught young people how to dance at a Basic level in a weekend and it has worked out just fine. It was the participants own free choice to decide whether they wanted to keep dancing after the weekend. I have the honor to declare that several of our Square Up students are now graduated, a couple of them went straight to dancing at the National Convention of Sweden and others have been spotted at public dances over the year! At this point we have hosted three beginner's classes and are now planning some kind of follow-up, probably like a Mainstream class for those who would like to learn more. We are using a model for systematic development and have learned a lot from these Square Up Weekends. We are getting better and better doing this. And we will make more young people Square Dance.

Now on to the great news! Buffalo Squares will be the host of the Swedish National Square Dance Convention 2015 in Jönköping! Of course, it is an incredible honor and a huge responsibility! Although, I have no doubt that we will do just as well as if we were a "normal" Square Dance club (defined by geographic affiliation). We will try to put all our experience and excitement in this upcoming event. All our joy of dance and fellowship put together for one epic weekend! And hopefully we will appear as a reputable and respected Square Dance club. The Swedish Convention 2015 will be in the 1-3/5 2015 and of course, you are all most welcome! Visit the website [convention2015.se/en](http://convention2015.se/en) for more information and follow our hashtag #SWESDC2015 on social media.

Let us finish this article by clarifying our attitude towards Square Dance. We are often wearing the traditional Square Dance outfits. We are dancing by the definitions by Callerlab. And we are dancing to the traditional Square Dance music you are all familiar with. Those are all the pillars which the legacy of Squaredancing rests upon. However... We also wear casual clothing, nice and elegant but still ordinary shirts and skirts.

We also like to add some playfulness to the dancing once in a while, something extra, something more. And we also like dancing to the latest of the latest music. That does not necessarily mean "Crazy Frog" all the time. What we are looking for is a widening of the dance. To allow ourselves to put more into the activity called "Square Dance". We all love the traditional heritage and we will protect that - but we also need to develop. We like to think outside the square and do the most one possibly can.

We are all fighting for the survival of Square Dance. We have to be flexible. We need to seek new ways. We need to cooperate. We have to be willing to do whatever we can. Now is not the time to talk about old times or to lose hope. Now is the time to act. Always remember that, we set the greatest barriers ourselves. There is another wave coming. We want to be a part of it. This is when the tide turns.

You can find us on [buffalosquares.se](http://buffalosquares.se) or at our Facebook page. Follow us and stay connected for more information about our Square Up Weekends and especially our new challenge - Convention 2015 in Jönköping, Sweden.

We really hope to see you soon in a square!

Never stop to square up.

### Buffalo Squares through Jon Hansell Nilsson

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CSRDS

CANADIAN SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE SOCIETY

### CANADIAN SQUARE & ROUND DANCE SOCIETY

Friendship from coast to coast/ L'amitie d'un ocean a l'autre

1-866-206-6696

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

Greetings Fellow Members of the Modern Square Dance World!

Here in Canada, the season is changing rapidly toward the one which most of you associate with Canada! Winter is well on the way despite the calendar.

Dancing in Canada has entered another full term beginning in September and in many cases dancers are active to the end of May. The 2013-14 term was highlighted by a most successful Canadian National Convention/Festival 17-19 July 2014. It took place in the National Capitol, Ottawa, Ontario.

A particularly exciting experience for many was to dance on the grounds in front of the Parliament buildings. Some 20 squares performed for the public under warm sunny skies.

The next Canadian National Festival will be held in Regina, Saskatchewan, 28-30 July 2016. This will give traveling dancers a chance to experience the unique landscape of the Canadian prairie (called the breadbasket of Canada). Festival 2016 is only 20 months away so plans should soon be made to come and "Partner Up Prairie Style"!

See [www.saskfestival2016.ca](http://www.saskfestival2016.ca) , where we hope to see many more visits by European dancers.

For the 2015 dance term, readers are invited to visit the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society website at [www.squaredance.ca](http://www.squaredance.ca) There you will find complete information about all of the five forms of dance the Society supports: Square, Round, Contra, Line dancing , and Clogging. Each Province in the country has an organization that invites you to visit as shown when selecting "Provinces" on that website.

Canadians are known for their friendliness, which is always evident at Square dances! The best way to confirm that impression is to come and visit us! WELCOME!

**J.R. (Bob) Ruohoniemi**

**Past President**

**Canadian Square and Round Dance Society**

[bobruoho@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:bobruoho@ns.sympatico.ca)

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Other content of the 2014 European Newsletter was

**What was the last call / cue? Dancing with hearing problems**

Already printed in Bulletin November 2014

**EAASDC honorary membership for Eberhard and Traudel Walz**

Already printed in Bulletin May 2014

**SRRS Youth Special**

Already printed in Bulletin December 2014