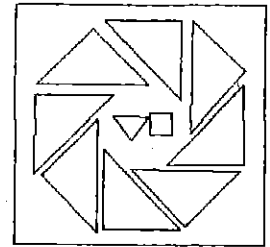


TALKING TORONTO



Volume 1, Number 1

January 1993

NEW LOOK TO NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to 1993 and the new newsletter from the Toronto Triangle Squares! In an effort to become more widely known while still keeping costs down and interest up, we have decided to begin publishing two newsletters: an international edition and our regular local edition.

Starting with the January edition, we will be mailing a quarterly newsletter to all IAGSDC members. It will summarize our activities and notes of interest for the previous three months. Topics will be geared toward out-of-town readers and will eliminate the boring routine operating matters. We will continue to produce our monthly local edition for our own club members.

As this is a new endeavour that we are implementing, we welcome your comments. Let us know what you liked, didn't like, would have liked to see, and anything else you feel we should be aware of. In the meantime, read on and enjoy!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year will mark the first Annual General Meeting held by the Toronto Triangle Squares and promises to be quite the historical event! On Thursday, April 8, we will be ratifying our by-laws!

Our club has grown to such a large size that the Steering Committee felt it was time to start formalizing our policies and philosophies. A By-Laws Committee was formed with Alan Dearnley chairing. The mandate has been established for this team to put together a comprehensive set of by-laws that will provide guidance and recourse for both the persons in leadership positions and members at large.

A draft version has been put for to the committee for the initial re-writes during

the month of January. From there, the committee will be busy during February and March incorporating suggestions and ideas from the Steering Committee and members.

If all goes well and no major obstacles are encountered, the by-laws should be ready for distribution prior to the Annual General Meeting in preparation for the general members to ratify them. Once official, the Steering Committee will begin looking at the possibility of incorporating the club.

1993 FLY-IN

"SCOOT ACROSS THE BORDER"

MAY 28 - 31

Memorial Day Weekend

Mark your calendars!

STEERING THE COMMITTEE

As with all clubs, we have a body of people empowered to make decisions on behalf of the club members: the Steering Committee. Some of these names you may recognize, and others, you will be meeting. They are a dedicated bunch who keep the Triangle Squares running week after week.

Chris Homer, President

One of the Founders of the club, a Club Caller, Newsletter Editor, and Instructor of two-stepping & line-dancing. Chris is self-employed in the area of direct-mail and dances at the A-2 level.

(continued overleaf)

STEERING THE COMMITTEE (From cover)

Alan Dearnley, Secretary

Alan is also serving as the Registrant for our 1993 fly-in and served as last year's Treasurer for the fly-in. Alan dances in the Plus class and is a supervisor at a large Trust Company.

Richard Stoveld, Treasurer

A technical analyst with a company that makes contraceptive products, Richard dances in the A-1 class and has a black belt in karate. He has previously served as the Secretary on the Committee.

Stephen Holmes, Events Co-Ordinator

An assistant designer with a large insurance company, Stephen dances in the Plus class and, also, has a black belt in karate. Proficient in sign language.

Andy Chong, IAGSDC Representative

As well as being a Club Caller who helps to teach the Advanced Class, Andy dances at the C-1 level. An assistant database manager with the provincial government, he has recently been bitten by the Country & Western bug!

Dave Bennett, Class Representative

Dave has recently run his own card and gift shop. Dave dances at the Mainstream level and is our Class Representative for 1993/94.

Toy Company refused comment when confronted with eyewitness accounts of Santa reading a Playguy magazine.

Crowning the festivities was the appearance of her royal highness, Queen Carmina, Honky Tonk Queen. Her subjects (and devoted groupies) swooned before her as she approached the stage to receive her gift from Santa: a senorita Troll kidz. (Is life imitating art or vice-versa? Hmmm...)

The evening was a success with lots of dancing and eating. Eating and dancing. Eating and eating. (You get the picture!) Thank you to all who helped organize the party and to all those who attended to make it fun!

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

by Chris Homer

Without a doubt, the most significant event of 1992 came in August at the Canadian National Exhibition, Canada's largest and longest-running annual fair. History was made when the Triangle Squares danced same-sex couples for an hour's demonstration with two squares called by Anne Ubelacker.

Although it was obvious that the organizers (by their actions and words) didn't want us there, and even some of our own members were a little worried about the possible reactions, the sky didn't fall and we weren't pelted with abuse.

Quite the opposite. Under a summer sun so hot that the records literally melted on the turntable, Anne introduced us as Ontario's only gay and lesbian square-dance group. An interested crowd watched and applauded as she called fast patter and singing calls. Straight dancers from other groups appearing throughout the day came over to say how much they enjoyed our dancing and the next group up at the end of our demonstration tried to copy our own method of saying "Thank you" at the end of their tip instead of just shaking hands.

The event was covered by both the local gay newspaper and a national paper with the largest circulation in Canada. Immediately following, we were called and asked to do another demo on "Breakfast TV" (popular morning TV show in Canada) where we were again billed as gay and lesbian dancers. This exposure has made us eager for more and in May, we intend to dance in Hamilton, Ontario at Canada's largest straight annual

SANTA COMES TO TOWN!

It was a historic year in 1922 with lots of firsts, including Santa visiting the Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner/Club Night on Dec. 17. The dinner was well-attended with many people cooking-up some sumptuous dishes and desserts! Some were watching their figures while others were eager to sample all the delights (2 and 3 times, by some--just to make sure they'd tasted it right the first time, of course!).

The occasion was made more festive with the appearance of Santa's elf Alan prancing about and losing his jingle bells. Not to be out-done by this fellow in green tights, our lovely(?) Triangle Tarts dropped by for a visit: Crystal Chandelier, Finalnet Funicello, I. Juana Donis. Bringing up the rear was our newest debutante: Scarlett Mascara, looking absolutely divine!

Before the dancing had progressed very far in the evening, our guest of honour arrived: Santa! (Who was that bearded man?) Looking jolly and resplendent in his tubby red suit, Santa doled out gifts to some deserving folks. Newsflash...the North

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE (From Page 2)

convention.

Another event of significance was our Fly-In in May of 1992 when we had the largest turnout ever! 102 dancers registered to dance to Anne and Joe Ubelacker. The largest outside contingent came from our Sister Club in Cleveland, while Grand River Squares in Michigan and Times Squares were also well represented. Others came from across Canada and the United States. For the first time, a special Fly-In Committee was formed to handle all details and along with its chairperson, Brian Wilding, was responsible for an excellent weekend.

Triangle Squares has now been dancing for over five years, since September of 1987. Judging by the newsletters we receive from other IAGSDC clubs, your problems are ours, and vice versa. Where to dance? Who should call? How to handle slow learners? How to publicize lessons? How to graduate dancers to the next level? etc., are questions each club has to handle. But this September we were gratified to find that our Basic Class was the largest ever and although there has been the inevitable fall-off, the numbers are still strong and the class is learning fast and having fun at the same time. They should be ready in May to dance full Mainstream at our Fly-In which will feature Mainstream through A2 calling.

So, 1992 was a good year for the club and we look forward to dancing our way through 1993 as well. Oh, by the way, another committee was formed in 1992 to explore whether we have the facilities and wherewithal to mount a convention here in Toronto in about 1997. The committee's report will be forthcoming soon. Stay tuned!
..... Chris

EXPOSING OURSELVES

If you read the President's Choice column, you'll know that the Triangle Squares have had an astounding year for public exposure. We formed two squares at the C.N.E., dancing an hour-long demo. We've appeared on the "Breakfast TV" show twice to rave reviews! Our second appearance featured our Demo Team dancing to a square-dance version of "Over The Rainbow" (Judy would have been proud!) One of the stage managers at the TV station,

after witnessing our rehearsal, remarked "Thought I'd seen everything, but now I've seen it all!) The Demo Team made a number of other appearances ranging from a birthday party to demos in a local bar show. It's been rumoured that this year they were only warming-up and are planning on really letting loose in 1993! Arthur Murray, look out!

As well as the Demo Team, some of our Club Callers have been getting exposure, too. Don St. Jean has been scooting across the province calling for special country & western nights at various functions, with a carload of Triangle Square members in tow. Most recently, he called for the Metropolitan Community Church (Toronto downtown branch) at a Saturday night dance. The response was favourable and we were able to draw a few new members from their group.

The possibility of calling for other special country & western nights is being investigated by the Steering Committee. Buffalo is a possibility, as are other cities in the north-east area.

SCOOT ACROSS THE BORDER

Our Fly-In Committee has already been hard at work on our 1993 fly-in being held on Memorial Day weekend. It's sure to be another exciting weekend! If you enjoyed our 1992 fly-in, just wait 'til you come and experience us in 1993!

We have the fabulous (and some say "hot") Paul Waters calling, along with our own club Caller Joe Ubelacker! A new event this year will be a festive entertainment show on Saturday night during the Western Party, featuring our own Toronto Triangle Tarts and show-casing our lovely and talented Queen Carmina. (It's been rumoured that those men-crazed...er...crazy Buxom Beauties from Cleveland will be guest appearing!)

We have Sunday night and Monday events in the planning stages, ensuring that those who wish to stay over for the holiday Monday will have plenty of fun and excitement! It's sure to be a weekend you won't want to miss!

Registration brochures will be mailed to each IAGSDC clubs and all registrants who attended in 1992. Watch for it! If you don't receive them by the end of January, call Brian at (416) 537-3092.

VISITING TORONTO? COME DANCE WITH US!

Regular Dance Nights:

Mondays 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Advanced

Orde Street Public School
18 Orde Street, Toronto

Thursdays 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Mainstream

Church Street Community Centre
519 Church Street, Toronto
(same)

8:30 - 10:00 p.m. Plus

Up-Coming Calendar Events:

Friday 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. Club Night
Jan. 22 (All levels)

St. Luke's United Church
353 Sherbourne Street, Toronto

Wednesday 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. Club Night
Feb. 24 (All levels)

Church Street Public School
83 Alexander Street, Toronto

STEERING COMMITTEE	
President	Chris Homer
Secretary	Alan Dearnley
Treasurer	Richard Stoveld
Events Co-Ordinator	Stephen Holmes
IAGSDC Representative	Andy Chong
Class Representative	Dave Bennett

NON-COMMITTEE CONTACTS	
Fly-In Chairperson	Brian Wilding
By-Laws Chairperson	Alan Dearnley
Demo Team Co-Ordinator	Don Chef
Convention Chairperson	Don St. Jean

Toronto
Triangle Squares
INVITE YOU TO THEIR
6th ANNUAL
FLY-IN
WEEKEND

**SCOOT
ACROSS THE
BORDER**

★
CALLERS:
Paul Waters
Joe Uebelacker
Basic thru Advanced Dancing

MAY 28-31, 1993

(That's Memorial Day Weekend!)



CARMINA PUTANNA

HTQ 1992

Welcome, dear Subjects! It's a brand new year with new hopes and dreams alongside the known and familiar. Inside this envelope, you'll find the familiar: registration brochures for Toronto's 6th Annual Fly-In "Scoot Across The Border", and the new: our first issue of our new newsletter! We'll be sending you each quarterly edition, featuring regular columns like "The Queen's Quorner" by myself, "President's Choice" by our President Chris Homer, as well as updates on other important issues.

My Royal Artistic Communications Designer bestowed this quaint stationery upon myself, leading me to write my first column for you on my own regal paper. Please enjoy my heart-wrenching sharing of myself here before you rush eagerly into the premiere edition of "Talking Toronto". Followed, of course, by a mad dash to complete and mail-in a "Scoot Across The Border" registration form.

"Dear loyal, true, faithful, and (sob) not so obedient subjects: this is the first of my regular quolumns, regaling you with the birth, and life, of your Honky Tonk Queen.

My "birth", alas, was a painful thing; as those of you who were in attendance know, our quontest this year was based on operatic duets. As one of the props for the previous quontestant had been popquorn, this poor, shoeless, Spanish peasant girl was in great disquomfort with popquorn betwixt my tootsies and embedded in the soles of my feet!

At any rate..., it was a definite thrill to be the first QuCanadian (or was it pseudo-Spaniard) quowned as Honky Tonk Queen, thus quonfirming the truly international flavour of the IAGSDC. Beside myself with joy (Joy who? Am I schizo?) at my quowning, it was also a triumph to be the first queen to have the quown fit her!"

--excerpt from The Queen's Quolumn, Toronto
Triangle Squares newsletter

Well, dear Subjects, was that not just too Q't for words? I can assure you that the former Royal Editor-in-Chief is now just a little pen-pusher! To continue in a more "normal"(?) fashion, here beginneth the First Epistle from the Queen:

There is still no handbook written, or passed on, from the former title-holders, on the proper comportment and deportment of "The Queen". As a consequence, we are somewhat at a loss as to just what our duties are supposed to be. One does hope, however, that one is allowed to repair the crown! It is in a very sad state of disrepair, and is not quite a thing of beauty (much like myself in the early morning!). We'll just have to see what a trusty glue gun and a rhinestone or two can do for the tired old thing (no, no, I'm talking about the Crown, not someone you know!!).

Back to the topic of duties and obligations:

My first edict, Free Registration in Seattle for "Her Maj", was totally ignored. (So, that's what happened to obedience!). Perhaps, I should have started with Free Airfare and worked my way down. (What? The Queen goes down?)

Pending the completion of my move to more suitably royal quarters in Toronto, the crown was in safe-keeping (Does that mean it was wearing a condom?) in the Tower of Cleveland, closely guarded by "The Lady in Red", Lady Shea Needaman. So last October it was off to Cleveland for the rightful restoration of my jewels, and, for their fly-in "Load The Boat".

Upon my arrival at the sumptuous residence of the Lady Annabelle and her husband (who has been sighted on occasion), I thought I was in a China Shoppe...it was dish, dish, dish -- but no bull! Suffice to say, most of it was true and we're not telling who slept with whom...it's a secret amongst the Callers.

After dining, we had a wonderful time dancing the night, and weekend, away. A highlight of our stay was a delightful evening of fun and frolic at one of their local bars, where we were regaled with a floor show featuring local and foreign talent. In a "demand" performance, I supplied the foreign portion with a rendition of "Eine Kleine Kat Muzik". Next time, however, I'll cue the conductor, thank you! Lady Rhoda Manhard had him greatly confused and out of synch. Perhaps, his confusion was caused by her beauty...one really cannot be certain.

Following that, the audience and I were entranced with the hysterical rendition of "Swine Lake" by Cleveland's Buxom Beauties. We were most amused! Thank you, Loyal Subjects of Cleveland,...we look forward to next year's fly-in. Hope the rest of My Subjects join us there, too! They have the best Beginner's group there -- able to do their own version of A2!

Other than a quick State Visit to Puerto Vallarta, we don't remember much about November. It's such a dreary month: first, the leaves fall off, then the snow arrives, then, it's my birthday...how depressing can any month be? But next thing we knew, it was time for our Christmas Party in Toronto, whereat Lady Scarlett Mascara made her debut, accompanied by other stellar, beauteous members of our group. My entrance was somewhat of a shock to many of our Basic Class dancers, who, until then, did not really know or understand what the Honky Tonk Queen and/or beauty are all about...!!

With subdued lighting and an eclectic, electric, Marie Antoinette (she wanted to be a queen, too, you know) -type headpiece, we made our royal way to the stage (with much oohing and aahing, bowing and scraping), to be presented with a fabulous "Carmina Putanna" Troll. (See, they're already naming things after me!) The doll included a mantilla and all, tres drole!

Now, we are gearing-up for the Triangle Squares Fly-in, May 28-31 in Toronto, to which you are all cordially invited. Every year we get bigger (size can be all!) and better, so we look forward to seeing you here. I knew that dancing with the IAGSDC was fun, but, being the Queen is certainly an experience. Wait until Seattle!

In closing, may I wish you all the very best for the New Year! May fun and laughter prevail! Meeting new guys and gals, and making new friends on all sides of the borders!

May love and friendship keep us strong together!

Regally, Royally & Eternally Yours,

Carmina Putanna I