



# TRIANGLE SQUARES NEWSLETTER

October 1995

Volume 9, Number 2



## We Need You!

A message from the president

Triangle Squares is currently run by a committee of six people. This group meets once per month to discuss any current problems the club may be having, ways of making the Club better and be able to continue on in the upcoming years, book callers, plan events like the Picnic, Christmas Dance, Club nights etc., order your badges ... Events just don't happen they require planning.

Triangle Squares' annual general meeting is held in the fall of each year. This year it will be held on October 26. The purpose of the meeting will be to provide financial and administrative accountability to the General membership. Also at the AGM, elections for vacant positions on the steering committee will be held. Each position on the steering committee comes up for re-election every 2 years. This year the positions of Secretary, Publicity Co-ordinator, and the IAGS-DC® Representative will be decided by the general members of Triangle Squares.

The current By-laws of Triangle Squares state that a member is anyone who has demonstrated the successful completion of the Mainstream program and has paid their membership fees for the current year.

In the following paragraphs I have listed the duties of the positions that will be voted on at this year's AGM. Please read them and if you feel that you have an interest in any of the positions, please tell any person currently on the Steering Committee and we will ensure your name will be added to the list for this year's election.

### Events Co-ordinator

In conjunction with the decisions of the committee, directs a formal or informal sub-committee of people necessary to achieve successful club nights, fly-ins, potluck parties, western parties or any other event that the club may hold.

In conjunction with the President and Treasurer, assembles a projection of event costs involved. Works within a budget agreed upon by the Steering Committee for each individual event. May handle all event finances and be responsible for revenues by no later than three weeks after the event has happened.

### Publicity Co-Ordinator

## ON THE HEAD OF A PIN ...

Reprinted from *Times Squared* September 1993

**I**s your halo on straight? (You should excuse the expression.) It is important that as many of our club members as possible come to the Beginner class as "angels". What are angels? They are the wonderful people who volunteer their time to ensure that a class has the best possible learning experience.

Angels provide the new class members with their first real look at the club (since class members don't generally see the instructor as a club member until after graduation). How angels behave and treat the new dancers, other angels, and visitors will affect class members' decisions whether or not to join our club. Angels are also role models. No matter what the instructor and club try to communicate to the students concerning etiquette, attitudes, or styling, class members inevitably take their cues from what they see the angels doing. So it is important that angels be extra careful to provide good role models. Smile, be enthusiastic, and enjoy the dancing. Be friendly, courteous, and gentle. This is some-

times easier to say than to do, especially if it has been a long

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND POT LUCK  
WILL BE ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 26,  
FOR ALL CURRENT MEMBERS,  
6:30 - 7:30 DANCING FOLLOWING MEETING.**

day. And, let's be honest, some of us have personal agendas, perhaps disagreements with club policies or less-than-cordial relations with specific club members, that are out of place here and must be put aside.

Although most of us do the right things instinctively, at least most of the time, it can't hurt to reiterate certain points. The following advice for angels has been extracted from several sources, including articles in square dance magazines and hand-outs prepared for other clubs. Thanks go to Betsy Gotta and Nick Martellacci for providing some of these articles.

**Angels are not teachers.** This is perhaps the most common misconception that causes problems. Angels' primary teaching function is to teach by example — to be in the right place at the right time. One important thing you can do is to establish hand-holds

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**Club Steering Committee**  
Richard Stoveld (President)  
John Mills (Treasurer)  
Andy Chong (IAGSDC®Rep)  
John Bailey (Secretary)  
Chris Homer (Publicity)

**All (416)**  
964-2471  
421-9625  
925-2602  
921-0571  
960-5458

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Phone number serves as information resource (Xtra listing Pink Pages etc.). Deals with the Board of Education regarding Permit Applications and payments. Keeps the archives current and organized. Keeps the Xtra phone listing current. Deals with Xtra (or any other media source) for inserts, ads., etc. Makes sure that a Club representative handles all radio, TV interviews, public statements, and outreach. Deals with Dominion Regalia in the ordering and purchase of badges. Actively solicits ways and means for increasing and promoting the Club's image. Defers to the President and Steering Committee in all policy matters.

**IAGSDC® Representative**

Represents Triangle Squares at all IAGSDC® meetings authorized by the Committee. Liaise between the Club and the IAGSDC® to maintain accurate records for IAGSDC® actions and regulations.

**Associate Representative**

Liaise between the Committee and the Basic/Mainstream Class. Exercises a voting privilege on the Committee

**Secretary**

Records and prepares minutes of all meetings presided over by the Committee. Chairs meetings in the event of the President's absence. Maintains a current membership listing, a list of other IAGSDC® clubs, and a list of square dance callers. Maintains a current set of bylaws and associated documents.

Of course all the duties on the Steering Committee are subject to change! Don't put off for another year volunteer today! I am looking forward to hearing from you

**Name the Newsletter**

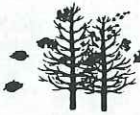
For years now our newsletter has had the name Triangle Squares Newsletter. Surely some one out there has an idea as to what to name our newsletter. If you have an idea for a newsletter name please pass it on to anyone currently on the steering committee.

**Please Remember**

We are requested by Jesse Ketchum Public School to wear only SOFT soled shoes. If you are not wearing soft soled shoes we will have to ask you to not dance.

Sorry, those are the rules and if we break them we will not be allowed to dance at the school anymore.

**Harvest Hoedown**



Chris Homer is organizing a group of Triangle Squares dancers to attend the Harvest Hoedown in Guelph on October 21, 1995. The Hoedown will have three halls, Mainstream, Plus, A1 with callers Norm Wilcox, Jeff Priest, & Dean Fisher. \$15/couple advance \$18/couple at the door. Times are 2 -5 and 7 -10:30. Contact Chris Homer for more details

**THE PLEASURE PRINCIPLE:**

**F. WILLIAM CHICKERING'S GUIDE TO EXCRUCIATINGLY CORRECT SQUARE DANCE BEHAVIOR**

What is square dancing all about? Square dancing is all about pleasure: the pleasure of calls well executed, the pleasure of a good laugh if your square does break down, the pleasure of a social activity in a friendly atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation. To keep square dancing pleasurable, we must all observe a few guideline. After all, square dancing is a group activity.

1. Avoid drinking and drugs that may affect your reaction time and cause you to break down a square (or even cause serious injuries). Most clubs discourage drinking both before and during dancing, as the smell of alcohol on the breath can be unpleasant to others.

2. Start out Fresh. Shower, use deodorant, and brush your teeth. Avoid eating strong smelling foods like garlic right before

dancing. This may sound corny, but it can make a big difference to your fellow dancers.

3. In most clubs, for each new tip dancers form new sets by squaring up randomly. It is considered unfriendly and discourteous to pass by a forming square to look for another.

4. At the beginning of a new tip, introduce yourself to dancers you don't know. Friendliness is one of the best aspects of square dance activities.

5. Rule: once in a square, under no circumstances abandon it. Exception: in a medical emergency or if someone is injured, of course you should use common sense. There is an accepted "emergency call for medical assistance": members in a square should surround the ill or injured person with uplifted arms to notify the caller or other persons in charge.

6. Help your set dance its best. Be friendly about it. If you see a need to direct a fellow dancer be sure that you are correct, and be gentle in your assistance. Think of the best interest of the group and take care not to hurt other dancers' feelings. Do not be too critical of others. This can ruin everyone's fun if it results in bickering or a condescending attitude. Remember, we all make mistakes and the next one might be yours. Be especially supportive of new dancers; without them our pleasurable pastime would die out.

7. Listen to the caller. Do not talk when the caller is talking or calling. Not only is it rude, but all dancers may need the information offered.

*Did you attend or plan to attend an event that would interest other dancers in the club? Why not have it published in the newsletter? You can! Submit all articles to Richard Stoveld by the deadline date.*

The views expressed in this newsletter reflect only the view of the individual writers and may not represent the views of the membership.

*The deadline for submissions for the November issue is October 27.*

*Head of a Pin continued from page 1*

after every move. This not only helps the students maintain their orientation in the squares, it is a very good habit to develop. It is always tempting to explain something your square is not getting, and the students will often ask you to do this — but you must resist. It diverts the students' attention from the teacher, and one of the most important things to learn in beginner class is to listen to the teacher/caller. Sometimes you can clarify a simple point for students between tips; this is fine, but not while the caller is at the microphone.

Another difficult point is just how much "help" you should give in getting dancers into the right place. Dancers, after all, must learn to do the moves on their own. To gently guide someone through a maneuver if they have a momentary lapse of memory might be okay, and sometimes one can help by indicating non-verbally where a person should go, but we accomplish little by pushing or pulling a dancer through an action when he or she doesn't know what was supposed to have been done. It is better to let a square break down rather than to use too much force getting people into the right place. Broken down squares are an indication to the instructor that the dancers are having problems. Do be sure the teacher is aware of problems; raise your hand if necessary and ask the teacher to explain something if your square is having trouble. Be careful, however, not to embarrass any dancer by the way you ask for help. For example, say "We're not getting this or that" not "He (or she) is having trouble." Do encourage students; let them know that all beginners make mistakes and that things get better with practice. Also, angels do sometimes make mistakes, too, and it is good to admit to them cheerfully; it makes the students less tense about their own mistakes.

Club styling is always a third major source of contention. It is important that beginners learn the calls with standard Callerlab

styling, that is, without the flourishes we like so much. The teacher will introduce our club styling at appropriate times after the calls are mastered. Angels must use only the styling which has been taught to the class. This is not always easy. How many of us even remember how to do a do-sa-do without a Highland fling? But it really is very important. Students are going to want you to teach them "how it's done" before they have mastered the call, but you should resist the temptation. (In fact, it helps the angels to be reminded how the calls are really supposed to be done; some of our styling causes havoc when a caller says, for example, do-sa-do once and a half or ferris wheel and roll.)

And some random additional advice:

- \* Square up with everyone, not just a few friends. Seek out the weaker students and ask them to dance with you. Make sure that students are not sitting out because angels are dancing.
- \* End conversations promptly when the teacher begins a tip. If you are not dancing, keep your conversations far away from the dance area.
- \* Lend a hand cheerfully if you are asked to help set up or take down sound equipment, to help with refreshments, or to take attendance.
- \* Keep an eye out for security problems, accidents, and dangerous situations like spills or debris on the floor.
- \* Let the instructor know if there are problems with the sound.
- \* Don't complain about the hall, the floor, the caller. Don't criticize students or other angels.
- \* Remember your name badge.
- \* Have fun!

## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Dwaine McDonald  
Kathryn Price  
Sam Laredo  
John Bailey  
David McKay



## Christmas Dance and Dinner

This year's Christmas Dance and Dinner has been tentatively scheduled for December 10, 2 -4:30 Dance, 5 - 7 Dinner. Mark your calendars now!

**October 26 come as your favorite  
person or fetish. Thursday  
October 26 we will be celebrating  
Halloween!**

### Mark your Calendars!

Load the Boat V - Cleveland	October 6 -9
AGM/Potluck Dance (Mainstream -A2)	October 26
Peel the Pumpkin - New York City	October 25 - 27
Pearl and Gen - Vancouver	November 24 - 26

# OCTOBER

# NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Basic / C1 Jessie Ketchum 7 - 9	5 Adv - 7 - 8:30 Plus 8:30 - 10 "519"	6 Load the Boat V - Cleveland	7 Load the Boat V - Cleveland
8 Load the Boat V - Cleveland	9 Thanksgiving Load the Boat V - Cleveland	10	11 Basic / C1 Jessie Ketchum 7 - 9	12 Adv - 7 - 8:30 Plus 8:30 - 10 "519"	13	14
15	16	17	18 Basic / C1 Jessie Ketchum 7 - 9	19 Adv - 7 - 8:30 Plus 8:30 - 10 "519"	20	21 Harvest Hoedown
22	23	24	25 Basic / C1 Peel the Pumpkin New York	26 AGM / Potluck / Club Night "519"	27 Peel the Pumpkin New York	28 Peel the Pumpkin New York
29 Peel the Pumpkin New York	30	31				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Basic / C1 Jessie Ketchum 7 - 9	2 Adv - 7 - 8:30 Plus 8:30 - 10 "519"	3	4
5	6	7	8 Basic / C1 Jessie Ketchum 7 - 9	9 Adv - 7 - 8:30 Plus 8:30 - 10 "519"	10	11
12	13	14	15 Basic / C1 Jessie Ketchum 7 - 9	16 Adv - 7 - 8:30 Plus 8:30 - 10 "519"	17	18
19	20	21	22 Basic / C1 Jessie Ketchum 7 - 9	23 Adv - 7 - 8:30 Plus 8:30 - 10 "519"	24 Pearl & Gem Vancouver	25 Pearl & Gem Vancouver
26 Pearl & Gem Vancouver	27	28	29 Basic / C1 Jessie Ketchum 7 - 9	30 Adv - 7 - 8:30 Plus 8:30 - 10 "519"		