



BETWEEN TIPS

"BETWEEN TIPS" is the official bulletin of the
SQUARE & ROUND DANCE FEDERATION OF NOVA SCOTIA
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New Square Dance Club in Nova Scotia

The residents of the Ardoise area of West Hants County have a new activity to enjoy. In January 2004, the second attempt to organize a square dance group in Ardoise proved to be successful. Caller Bruce Savage was coaxed to drive out to the Ardoise Community Recreation Centre on Thursday nights to teach an eager group of new dancers how to enjoy themselves at square dancing. Fourteen people have had a great time learning the basic movements that starts everyone on the journey through a life of square dancing! The couples and paired-up singles are well on the way to completing the Mainstream 1-53 program and graduation in the Fall.

Under Bruce's guidance, the new dancers have learned not only the square dance movements, but also some of the customs and traditions of the activity. It was soon obvious that the new dancers should create a name for the group. About 12 suggestions were voted down to one choice - "Dice Hill Squares". The title Dice Hill, refers to the traditional name for the 3km long hill, where the Community Hall is located, beside Highway 1 leading to Windsor from Bedford/Sackville. Legend has it that when British soldiers were posted at the foot of the hill to guard the only road from Windsor to Halifax in early colonial times, they occupied their time by playing dice. There are many square dancers living in the Annapolis Valley who recall driving through mountainous snowdrifts on Dice Hill as they made their way to Halifax many years ago.



With a name selected, the next step was to decide on a logo. The choices were drafted by one of the new dancers and by majority vote the selection was made. Finally, it was decided that there should be a special dance held at the end of the scheduled program, to invite dancers from other clubs, and to create a special theme for the event. Since Mulberry trees are usually in full bloom throughout the area at the end of May, the group decided to hold the first Dice Hill Squares Mulberry Dance! This special event will occur on Thursday, 27 May from 8 to 10pm at the Ardoise Community Recreation Centre. Dancers are invited to come and meet the members of the newest square dance club in the province and share their love of dancing. The Co-ordinators for the club can provide maps and further information by contacting: Bob & Inge Ruohoniemi 757-3884 bobruoho@ns.sympatico.ca

The club has plans to begin another class in September and continue the fun and fellowship on Thursday nights in Ardoise!

"AND THAT WAS A PARTY"

The 21st annual Scotia Dancers Spring Fling was not only a dance, it was a party! How could you tell? Well the whoopin and hollering could be heard far and wide as the dancers had themselves a great time on the floor!

The number of visitors who found our new "digs" was exactly right for the size of our hall. Everyone had enough space to dance and to take time-outs whenever necessary. The dance hall was tastefully decorated with plenty of spring flowers and butterflies. Marilyn Matheson and her many helpers did an excellent decorating job.

The program began with rounds cued by Alex Ritchie in his special style. The couples on the floor managed to complete 18 dances in the space of 55 minutes - they really made good use of the available time!

The main event at 7pm was opened by guest caller, Pat Alquire and club caller, Pat Matheson forming up a new duet combo to present the opening and closing singing calls. It was the opinion of many in the hall that they could cut a CD and it would sell very well! We had eight squares up dancing up a storm while others took a break from the virtually continuous music that was playing. Between Pat Alquire's singing calls, Alex Ritchie cued rounds for a full circle of dancers.

The district councillor, Bob Harvey and his wife dropped in to welcome everyone to the new Sackville Heights Community Centre. He invited everyone to return next year for the 22nd Spring Fling. Halfway

through the evening, there was a short intermission while dancers caught their breath and Dot and Ron Connell organized a fun "Survivor Game". There was lots of jockeying for position, but Roy Sewell managed to outguess Emery Faught to win the grand prize!

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of Scotia Dancers club life-memberships to two very deserving ladies. Both Edna Myers and Pat Alquire have been staunch supporters of all club activities for over 30 years, and richly deserve this honour. The attendees were in unanimous agreement.

The draws for the 50/50 monies, and the Spring Fling Raffle created great excitement. Prize winners walked away with happy smiles, as did the many door prize winners. Over 90% of the guests received door prizes!

As we know, all good things must come to an end, so the Friendship Ring and the Blessing given by Caller Barry Walker brought the dance to a successful conclusion. But of course, no Nova Scotia special dance evening would be complete without a lunch! That treat was enjoyed in the excellent dining room across the hall from the dance space.

As guests departed there were many comments that they had enjoyed themselves and looked forward to the 22nd annual Scotia Dancers Spring Fling 05 on Saturday, 16 April 2005.



Metro Square and Round Dance Association

On February 28th, 2004 Metro Association hosted a very successful fundraiser for the Heart & Stroke Foundation.

The South Woodside Community Center was a very pretty scene of red and white decorations, creating a festive atmosphere for our guests. Many door prizes were donated for this event by the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

On behalf of the Metro Association we wish to say thank you to the Metro Fiddlers for providing a wonderful evening of live music. We say thank you to Caller Dottie Welch and Cued Alex Ritchie for providing an enjoyable evening of square and round dancing.

The Heart & Stroke Foundation was given a total of \$912.00 in donations. Metro Square and Round Dance Association expresses a sincere thank you to the decorating committee and the helpful hands with the food and beverage preparation. We hope you will all mark your calendars for the annual 2005 Heart Dance.

Respectfully submitted, Junior & Pauline Arsenault, Metro Chair