



Council of Dancers Meeting

1:30 Sunday 16 April 2023

Via Zoom

1. Call to Order

1.1. Confirmation of Quorum

Appendix A

- Dave Western

- Barb Englehart

Bylaw 27 requires that “A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of Members shall consist of twenty-five percent (25%) of the Member Clubs”.

	Total	Attending	%age
Member Clubs	25	13	52%
Associations	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	100%
	26	14	54%

Total attendees: **24**

Voting delegates: **20**

Non-voting delegates: **4**

1.2. Opening Remarks

Appendix B

- Dave Western

2. Agenda --

Accepted as circulated

- Dave Western

3. Record of the 20 November 2022 Meeting

MOTION: Speer/Warriner that the record of the 20 November 2022 meeting be accepted as circulated. **CARRIED**

4. Reports

4.1. Executive Committee

☐ 2022-2023 Financial statements

Appendix C

- Bob Pitruniak

☐ Registrar's Report

Appendix D

- Barb Englehart

Sunshine Squares was not listed – there were 18 dancers that should be registered.

Other clubs indicated they would contact the Registrar to update their numbers.

4.2. Dance Committee

Appendix E

- Wendy VanderMeulen

4.3. Publicity Committee

Appendix F

- Lamar Mason

4.4. Club Liaison

Appendix G

- Geoff Clarke

4.5. Technology Committee

Appendix H

- Arlo Speer

4.6. Ottawa Area Callers' Association

Appendix I

- Geoff Clarke

4.7. Acceptance of Reports

MOTION: Shackleton/Mason that the reports be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

5. Old Business

-- None

6. New Business

6.1. Attendees were asked, “What do you want EOSARDA to do for your club?” Responses were:

- ☐ Create a statement or policy related to COVID and dancing
- ☐ EOSARDA could contact the City of Ottawa regarding upcoming fees for renting facilities.
- ☐ Recruitment subsidies have helped clubs with: road-side signs, posters for local advertising, social media, and paid advertising. Some clubs reported that:
 - word-of-mouth from current dancers remains the strongest and most successful advertising method.
 - while turnout for free introductory dance nights has been good, retaining dancers for ongoing dancing remains difficult.
- ☐ EOSARDA could serve as a co-ordinating and supportive body for clubs.
 - Some individual clubs may not have sufficient members to fully staff demonstration dances or other events.
 - EOSARDA and other clubs could help support clubs.

6.2. Budget 2023 - 24

Appendix J

- Bob Pitruniak

MOTION: Pitruniak/V. Guthro that the budget be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

6.3. Scheduling Conflicts

Appendix K

- Geoff Clarke

6.4. Election of Directors

- Dave Western

EOSARDA's Board of put forward the following list of nominees:

Gavin Currie

Barbara Englehart

Gerry Johnson

Lamar Mason

Arlo Speer

Dave Western

MOTION: Shackleton/VanderMeulen that the above 6 individuals be elected as EOSARDA Directors for the coming year. **CARRIED**

With only 6 Directors, it is highly likely that the new EOSARDA Board will need to curtail some of its existing or traditional functions.

Members were asked if they are not currently available to assume a director position now, would there be a point in time in the future when they might be able to take on such a role.

Some participants suggested that after July or August, their situation could be different.

Members who were not able to take on a director role were asked if they could serve as a volunteer in some capacity.

No offer was received.

NOTE: *Following the Council of Dancers meeting, the newly-elected directors met to assign roles for the coming year. In accordance with EOSARDA By-law 8, the Board also appointed Wendy VanderMeulen to fill a vacancy as a 7th director for the coming year.*

7. Next Council of Dancers Meeting

1:30 pm -- 19 November 2023

Appendix A: -- Meeting Attendance

Club	Surname	First name	Club	Surname	First name
Bay Waves	Gardner	Ron	Mississippi Squares	Guthro	Vince
Crazy A's	Warriner	Lee		Guthro	Debbie
Capital Carousels	Currie	Gavin	Ottawa Date Squares	Robichaud	Jean-Marc
Capital City Lines	Blondeau	Janet		Devlin	Ed
Grenville Gremlins	Matthew	Geraldine	Ottawa Area Callers Assoc.	Crawford	Brian
	Matthew	Peter	Sunshine Squares	Kearnes	Diane
Kanata Squares	Summers	Bob		Kearnes	James
Lockits	Clarke	Geoff	Swinging Swallows	Bateman	Gloria
Meri Squares	Shackleton	David		Mastine	Jeannie
	Mason	Lamar	Square Dance Ottawa	VanderMeulen	Wendy
E O S A R D A (<i>non-voting delegates</i>)					
	* Western	David	* Johnson	Gerry	
	* Speer	Arlo	* Pitruniak	Bob	

Appendix B: Opening Remarks

Good afternoon and welcome to EOSARDA's Council of Dancers and Annual General Meeting for 2023. Over 70% of our Member Clubs have registered delegates for today's meeting with 33 registered participants. Thank you for taking the time to join us this afternoon.

Before we begin, Arlo will briefly review the protocols for today's Zoom meeting.

Arlo and I will be watching for hands indicating that someone wishes to address the meeting. We will do our best to make sure that all who wish to speak have the opportunity to do so, please be patient. When not speaking, please mute your microphone to help reduce background noise, but don't forget to turn it back on to speak.

We will take a 15-minute break around 2:45. Unfortunately, you are going to have to provide your own snacks and drinks.

A brief reminder about the rules of engagement this afternoon.

Under EOSARDA's Constitution and By-laws:

- \$ Any dancer registered with EOSARDA may attend Council and speak at the meeting
- \$ Each registered club or association may have up to two Voting Delegates both of whom may vote on any issue before Council.
- \$ Only designated Voting Delegates have a vote
- \$ However, no delegate may vote more than once on any issue (you don't get two votes if you are the only delegate from your organization or if you represent more than one club)
- \$ Members of EOSARDA's Board of Directors cannot vote unless they are also designated as Voting Delegates for a Member Organization
- \$ The Board is bound by any decision or direction issued by this Council.

To enable this Council to make decisions and to elect a new Board of Directors, a quorum of 25% of Member Clubs is required. We currently have 24 Member Organizations, so a quorum is 6 clubs. Given today's participation level, I can safely declare that we have a quorum and can continue with the meeting.

Throughout the pandemic, club executives and your association's Board of Directors have given freely of their time and energy to ensure that square and round dancing stayed alive in Eastern Ontario even though we were not actually dancing. The results of their efforts can be seen in this year's successful return to dancing. Yes, we have lost some dancers and also some clubs. And yes, we have had to get accustomed to dancing while wearing masks and ensuring that our vaccines are up to date. But thanks to your hard work and dedication we can now say "We're back!"

As we move into the second year of a full return to dancing, we have to turn our attention to growing the square and round dance movement in all corners of the region. You, our Member Clubs and Dance Leaders, are the front line in these efforts. You are both the public face of square and round dancing and the first point of contact with would-be dancers.

The Board's role is to provide you with the support and additional resources you need to deliver your programs. One of the issues we are going to discuss today is what kind of support you want from your board as we prepare to enter the second post-pandemic dance year. But keep in mind that our ability to deliver the help you need is limited by the number of people willing to serve on the Board.

Working with my fellow Board members throughout the pandemic has been a pleasure and a privilege. I have never worked with a finer team. But all good things must come to an end and unfortunately four of our colleagues will be leaving the Board at the end of their current terms of office. All four of them have served multiple terms on the Board and will be sorely missed. I would like to extend thanks on behalf of all of us to Geoff Clarke, Ron Gardner, Bob Pitruniak and Wendy VanderMeulen for their many years of service to this association. They will truly be missed.

If this association is to continue to meet the needs of our Member Clubs, it is essential that the departing Directors be replaced. Without sufficient human resources, there is simply no way that the Board can deliver the required services to our members.

In addition to electing a new Board for 2023/24, we have a number of important business items that need to be addressed by Council. These include:

- acceptance of a Financial Report for 2022/23;
- adoption of an Operating Budget for 2023/24;
- the election of a new Board of Directors to take us through Dance Year 2023/24; and
- acceptance of a series of reports from our Standing Committees on the year past.

Lots to do and lots to talk about, so let's get started.

Appendix C: Treasurer's Report

1. Current results

I include a summary of activity for the current fiscal year, 01 July 2022 to 07 Apr 2023. Please note these figures have not been reviewed by an outside reviewer.

Dancing has resumed for most clubs and the current report shows registration and registration overpayment refund activity to date.

This report also shows the complete results from a successful Frosty Fling dance.

Again, print this report in landscape mode.

Bob Pitruniak
Treasurer, EOSARDA

NOTE: Additional information has been omitted from the on-line version but is available upon request to secretary@eosarda.ca .

Appendix D: Registrar's Report

EOSARDA 2022-2023											
Updated Registrar's Report as of April 12, 2023											
	As of Feb. 19, 2023	As of April 12, 2023	Difference April 2023 vs Feb. 2023		Total Members Registered by Club- Final				New Dancers by Club (new to the activity)		
						SQ	RD	LINE/ CLOGGING	SQ	RD	LINE/ CLOGGING
NEW SQUARE DANCERS	120	138	18		Acey Deucey	0					
new to activity 126 vs 119					Bay Waves	11			7		
RETURNING SQUARE DANCERS	409	422	13		Capital City Lines			11			
					Capital Carousels		15				
NEW ROUND DANCERS	0	0	0		Crazy A's	0					
					Cornwall City Cloggers			19			
RETURNING ROUND DANCERS	21	21	0		Glengarry Tartans	21			1		
					Grenville Gremlins	47			12		
					Harbor Lites	31			2		
NEW LINE DANCERS	0	0	0		Kanata Squares	17			3		
new to the activity 0					Limestone Dancers	42	8		0		
RETURNING LINE DANCERS	28	28	0		Lockits	45					
					Meri Squares	79			33		
TOTAL TO DATE	578	609	13		Mississippi Squares	42			3		
					Napanee Pioneers	31			5		
					Ottawa Date Squares	45			24		
					Opeongo Squares	10			2		
CUERS, CALLERS, LEADERS AND PARTNERS	16	16			Quinte Twirlers	42			14		
					Riverside Gypsy	0					
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP TO DATE	594	625			Square Dance Ottawa	5			5		
					Square Dane Russell	0			6		
TOTAL CLUBS TO DATE	23	25			Swinging B's	31			6		
TOTAL ASSOCIATIONS TO DATE	2	2			Swinging Swallows	31			3		
<i>Note: Numbers are based on registration information received as of the issuance date of this report. Any new members that join after the issuance date of this report will be added.</i>											
ISSUED: April 12, 2023											
					TOTAL	530	23	30	126		

Appendix E: Dance Committee Report

Committee Chair: Wendy VanderMeulen

Committee Members: Gavin Currie, Arlo Speer, Dave Western

Since the last Council of Dancers meeting, the Dance Committee has not been idle.

In February, it organized a very successful Frosty Fling dance, with upwards of 8 squares on the floor dancing Basic, SSD, and Mainstream tips. Geoff Clarke and Wendy VanderMeulen provided a good afternoon of entertainment, and everyone was glad to be out at another Open Dance.

The Dance Manual (EOSARDA Procedures Manual, Chapter 20) was updated with a Table of Contents and other minor edits.

When the Seaway Valley Square & Round Dance Association (SVSRDA) disbanded last fall, the Dance Committee committed to continuing the tradition of the Annual Christmas Dance (2nd Sunday in December) and the Annual Mother's Day Dance (1st Sunday in May). Since then, the Swing into Spring Organizing Committee agreed to incorporate the MDD into its annual weekend festival. However, with the cancellation of Swing into Spring for 2023, the Dance Committee has stepped up and arranged for the MDD to go ahead as promised to the SVSRDA. It will be held on the first Sunday in May (the 7th) from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. There will be Basic, SSD, and Mainstream dancing, just as at the Frosty Fling. There will also be easy Round Dancing offered between some tips. See attached flyer for details.

We received the following report from the Swing into Spring Organizing Committee:

Swing into Spring 2023 has been cancelled. Despite having contracted with dance leaders and arranged for our usual location in Prescott, problems befell the organizers in the final months. Within 2 months of the event, we learned that 2 of our 3 leaders were unable to attend. Despite a search through eastern Canada and the northeastern United States, we were unable to fill the vacancies. Reluctantly and after much consideration, the committee decided it was best to cancel the 2023 event.

The good news is that the committee is now concentrating on 2024 and starting its work to plan for the best ever Swing into Spring next spring! Keep the weekend of **3 - 5 May 2024** open for **Swing into Spring 2024!**

Dancers who have registration fees on deposit with the Swing into Spring committee have the option of leaving those registrations open for 2024 or obtaining a refund – the option rests with the dancer.

www.swingintospring.ca and <https://www.facebook.com/pg/PrescottSIS> remain your sources for information about plans for 2024 ... or you can contact the committee at promotion@swingintospring.ca

The Swing into Spring committee is very pleased that EOSARDA's Dance Committee has been able to arrange for the Mother's Day Dance to continue in spite of the cancellation of Swing into Spring.

Appendix F: Publicity Committee Report

Since November, your Publicity Committee has been making plans for the 2023-2024 dance season and its promotional activities to help raise the visibility of square and round dancing. Our list of priorities was included in the March Square Time but here it is again with related comments.

1. *Organize/coordinate at least one regional promotional activity in late summer 2023.* Would you like help with a special demonstration and information day in your area? Let us know. We will help.
2. *Organize an in-person (preferably) or zoom meeting of club publicity personnel to share ideas and identify needs.* We have been trying to get some brainstorming going with clubs for more than 3 years now but we keep getting thwarted by weather or COVID! We hope 2023 will be the year.
3. *Examine the possibility of re-creating an EOSARDA demonstration group.*
4. *Raise awareness among clubs of the available promotional materials on eodance.ca and other sites.*
There is a great deal of promotional material already available on the eodance.ca website along with useful links for creating posters, etc. Clubs are encouraged to take a look at https://eodance.ca/club_page.php. The "Interested in dancing" link on the website's Home page has lots of useful information you could copy to your own Club websites for new dancers.
5. *5. Continue to research and explore public events where EOSARDA can participate, i.e., fall fairs, spring festivals, and work with local clubs for representation.* We have been asked to provide entertainment for an event on August 6 in the Alexandria area. We are planning to combine this with an information booth, if possible, for the local clubs. We continue to look for other events/opportunities and need suggestions from clubs across the region. We are happy to work with individual clubs who may need dancers for a demo or have a local event where an information booth would raise visibility.
6. *Work with the Technical Committee to continue to enhance the New Dancer page and resource section.*
7. *Provide clubs with information on potential social media options for club promotion and new dancer recruitment.*
8. *Develop a PowerPoint presentation that can be used at demonstrations and promotional events.* We are currently working on this presentation as well as a brochure with useful information for interested dancers.

At the request of the Club Liaison Committee, your Publicity Committee has just completed a new tri-fold double-sided brochure with information on EOSARDA that will be provided to new dancers during celebrations of program completion. The brochure would also be useful to Club Executive members who also wonder what EOSARDA does. It is a handy reference tool for all EOSARDA members. Let us know if you would like a copy.

Your Publicity Committee consists of three dedicated square dancers all of whom have other commitments, just like you! We cannot know what you need as clubs to help with recruitment or visibility unless you tell us. We know most clubs are returning with reduced membership and we are all struggling to have the necessary human resources. Let's work together to support each other: share ideas, work with other clubs in the area on joint demonstrations or information opportunities, or plan a local dance with another club so your dancers have more dance opportunities. Have you found a helpful resource website? Send it to publicity@eosarda.ca and we will share it with other clubs.

Let's work together to rebuild square and round dancing. It will take a community to make it happen.

Lamar Mason (Chair) with Gloria Bateman and Shirley Brown

Appendix G: Club Liaison Report

Committee Chair:

- Geoff Clarke **

Committee Members:

- Michelle Gravelle
- Sander Rosen
- Ron Gardner **
- Helen MacCallum **
- Gerry Johnson
- Gavin Currie

**** will not be returning for 2023-2024 – NEW volunteers will be required!!**

UPDATES since our last report to the Council on Nov 20, 2022

1. **New Dancer Celebrations** – (Michelle & Sandy) –
 - For upcoming Celebrations/Graduations, we have the following to report: -
 - 58 new dancers from 6 clubs to be 'celebrated'
 - 3 of 6 clubs asked for EOSARDA Reps to attend (Gremlins; Meri Squares; Date Squares). Dates are April 17 (GG); April 25 (MS); May 10 (ODS).
 - The other 3 clubs will have their New Dancer package mailed to them.
 - The 'new' EOSARDA publicity brochure will now be included in the ND package.
2. **New Dancer Recruitment Subsidy Program** (Geoff & Gavin)
 - 7 clubs have been reimbursed a total of \$2100 by EOSARDA. Of those 7, 5 clubs also submitted applications to the OSRDF for additional funds and all 5 were approved & have received their funds.
 - The Board **has extended the application deadline** for new-dancer recruitment subsidies **until Jun 30** for clubs that have not already received the full \$300 subsidy. On Jan 19, a Bulletin was issued informing clubs of this change.
3. **Dance Leader Training Subsidy Program** (Ron)
 - As we've had no new 'leaders' so far, no funding has been applied for, nor paid.
 - 'Hope' for new Callers is 'on the horizon' as the recent Caller Information session held by John & Wendy has yielded several candidates.
4. **EOSARDA Dance Dangle Program** (Michelle & Sandy) –
 - Chapter 24 of the Procedures Manual has been revised & posted on the website, including the new Dance Dangle Application Form! Clubs are reminded to check it out for the new information!
 - Bulletin issued on Feb 27th to advise that the updated program is up & running!
5. **Association Recognition of Major Anniversaries & Accomplishments** - (Helen) – nothing has been received from any clubs so far this year. Reminder again that - if your Club has an anniversary coming up; or has a dancer celebrating a dancing milestone, etc., to contact Club Liaison.
6. **Scheduling Conflict Policy** (Geoff) – with the demise of the SVSRDA and the recent 'conflict' (April 29), the Procedures Manual Chapter 26 will be revised to: (a) confirm the grandfathered events & dates (b) 'tweak' procedures to be followed to avoid/minimize any future dance conflicts.
 - At this Council meeting, Geoff will be asking those clubs in attendance that have 'grandfathered' dates listed, to confirm they're going to continue with the same events on the same dates. Clubs not in attendance at the CoD will be contacted by Geoff for the same confirmation. **Clubs are reminded** to refer to the PM Chapter 26 before scheduling any dance events!
7. **Square Time Publications** – (Gerry) – a bulletin has gone out to all Clubs for items for a new 'online' ST to be published in early May. Deadline for submission of articles is April 30th.

Report Submitted by: Geoff Clarke, Chair

Appendix H: Technology Report

Committee Members: -

- Arlo Speer – Chair; EOSARDA Bulletin Manager
- Geoff Clarke – Sound & Hearing Assist Equipment
- Bob Summers – EOSARDA Webmaster.

Work in Progress

1. *EOSARDA Bulletins*

- With our return to dancing, requests for EOSARDA Bulletins have increased.
- There are currently 144 subscribers to our system, of whom 79% review EOSARDA Bulletins “often”; 4% access bulletins “sometimes” and 13% “rarely” access the bulletins
- Bulletins issued since last fall’s Council of Dancers meeting:

March	14
February	12
January	17
December	8
November	11
- Normal operations will continue into 2023 and 2024

2. *eoDance Website*

- We continue managing website hosting & domain registrations.
- Normal operation & maintenance continues on the site
- There are plans continue to revise New Dancer pages for viewing on small screens such as smart phones & tablets

3. *Sound Systems (2)*

- Ongoing maintenance of the two (2) Hilton sound systems which are both 100% operational & have been used recently by one of our Clubs.
- Both systems are identical in composition & are held by two different EOSARDA Callers.

4. *Hearing Assistance Systems (2)*

- Our older Williams FM Hearing Assist systems are no longer in demand and have not been used by our Association or any of our clubs for some time. In accordance with an earlier Board decision, the older two units have been electronically recycled and the two less old units have been donated to local theatre groups.
- Some of our dancers still need help hearing calls and cues. Recent Bluetooth technology provides a way to transmit audio signals directly to a dancer’s hearing aid. Over this coming dance season, the Technology Committee will research the latest Bluetooth connectivity for hearing aids to determine how it can best be adapted to the needs of our dancers. Stand by for further information as our work progresses.

Appendix I: Ottawa Area Callers Association Report



Ottawa Area Caller's Association Report to Council of Dancer's Meeting – April 16th, 2023

The OACA did 'return to normal' on October 2nd 2022 at our new location and have held 5 of our scheduled 6 meetings over the course of our regular dance season – Oct, Dec, Feb, March, April. Our new meeting location has been working out very well with space to meet & lots of space to dance as well as ample parking. So, indeed a win-win!

Our meetings generally consist of a 'business' session, followed by some sort of 'workshop' whereby we work on choreographic ideas; new music; teaching methods & tips, etc. – all with a view to provide YOU, our dancers with a better dancing experience!

We have 10 active & paid members this year, [calling for these clubs]

1. John Charman [Harbour Lites; Meri Square (Plus); Crazy A's]
2. Geoff Clarke [Grenville Gremlins; Lockits]
3. Brian Crawford [Mississippi Squares – B/MS/Plus]
4. Dave Currie [semi-retired – fills-in when/where he can help]
5. Ron Gardner [Swinging Swallows; Bay Waves]
6. Dave Hutchison [Limestone Dancers; Quinte Twirlers; Napanee Pioneers]
7. Roger Moreau [Opeongo Squares]
8. Bob Summers [Sunshine Squares; Kanata Squares; Swinging B's (alternate)]
9. Wendy VanderMeulen [Ottawa Date Squares; Meri Squares; Square Dance Ottawa; SD Russel]
10. ** George Williams (an OACA member, but not calling for a regular club at this time)

NEW CALLERS NEEDED

So, as you can readily see above, ALL of these Callers are already VERY busy calling at multiple clubs and, none of us are getting any younger!! That's why there's an URGENT NEED for us to find NEW Callers to start the process of learning this amazing profession! It takes several years to learn this craft so **WE NEED YOU NOW!!**

Recently, John & Wendy held a "Caller's Information Session" to provide some insight into what's involved in becoming a Caller. From that session, it would appear that we might have 4-5 new Callers 'down the road', to that's VERY encouraging. But it doesn't have to stop there, so if you've got some 'hidden talent' in YOUR club that might be interested in learning how to call, then let John or Wendy know ASAP!!

Folks, as we recruit new dancers, we must recruit new Callers – *otherwise*.... do I have to finish the sentence?

ERRATUM

- ☐ New OACA Chair for 2023-2024 will be John Charman.
- ☐ New OACA Treasurer for 2023-2024 will be Wendy VanderMeulen.

**Submitted by: Geoff Clarke, Chair
OACA 2022-2023**

Appendix J: 2023 - 2024 Budget

Budget Assumptions for budget dated 2023-03-21

1 General

Dancing will resume in September 2023. As a starting estimate, we will have 100% of 2022-23 dancers returning and paying fees.

2 Revenue

Dance revenue: There will be an EOSARDA winter dance this year.

Square Time: There will be “normal” income here.

3 Expenses

Board meetings: We pay for Zoom again for EOSARDA Board and Council of Dancers meetings. In case we decide to have one or more in-person meetings there is a small amount added to cover hall rental.

Publicity: Publicity will promote the 2023/24 dance year.

Website/hosting: A fixed cost unrelated to the number of dancers.

Repairs etc.: Carry forward of past amount.

Leader training: We will budget for a leader training initiative.

Square Time: We will print hard copies beginning in fall 2023.

Dance expenses: There will be an EOSARDA winter dance in 2024.

NOTE: Additional information has been omitted from the on-line version but is available upon request to secretary@eosarda.ca .

Appendix K: Scheduling Conflicts

Reference: AGENDA Item 6.3

Comments to the Council of Dancers Meeting of April 16th, 2023

Topic – Scheduling Conflicts (Chapter 26 of the Procedures Manual)

A bit of background:

Prior to 2015, there was no 'process' in place regarding potential dance conflicts, so there were indeed 'conflicting' dances taking place on the same date and thus the dancers had to 'choose' which one they would attend. This was occurring more often than anyone desired, and all events clearly 'suffered' in attendance & the resulting financial impacts. Dancers were not happy having to 'chase'! This all came to a head at the Council of Dancers meeting of April 19, 2015 and from discussions held there (as noted in Chapter 26 [a]), the Council voted to *"establish the position of 'dancing date scheduler/coordinator' for the express & singular intent of eliminating dance date conflicts within the boundaries of EOSARDA"*

From that motion, the EOSARDA Procedures Manual - Chapter 26 (Scheduling Conflicts) was developed in 2015. It has had a few revisions since, with the latest version dated 2020. When I joined the Board in 2019, I took it upon myself to 'manage' Chapter 26 working along with our Bulletin Editor (Arlo); our Calendar editor (Bob) & our Square Time Editor (Gerry). [see 26.5 [a & b]

Since the establishment of these procedures in 2015, to my knowledge, ***there has been little or no dance date conflicts over the ensuing years!*** In other words, the process works (if followed)! Note also that we had a much larger dancer population prior to 2020 (and the pandemic).

Fast forward to 2023 where we have many fewer dancers, and to the recent 'conflict' event.

Referring to the process laid out in Chapter 26, there are several 'checkpoints' that 'should' prevent any dance date conflicts. Looking at the paragraphs in the document, they are:-

- 26.2 [b] – what is a 'scheduling conflict'
- 26.3 [a] – Clubs are encouraged to avoid.....
- 26.4 [a] – the Grand-Fathered dates
- 26.4 [c] - ...responsibility of the organizer.....
- 26.4 [e] – Event organizers should also take note of
- 26.6 – guidelines for recognizing conflicts.....

Given all of the above, one 'would think' that a dance date conflict should not happen with all the 'checkpoints' etc., but, hang on there, remember that we've not been dancing for almost 3 years, and ALL OF US are 'out of practise' in everything 'dance related'!!

As a result of "being out of practise" (following the processes), mistakes can, do, and did happen & really, no blame should be assigned to anyone **as we're all human** and let's learn from this experience so that it doesn't happen again.

THE Chapter 26 PROCEDURES DO WORK – we just have to remember to follow them!!

Note that, Chapter 26 will be 'tweaked' to bring it up to date (2023) with the demise of SVSRDA, and, all clubs that have 'grand-fathered' dates will be contacted to make any 'updates' to their information.

Respectfully,
Geoff Clarke,
Chair – Club Liaison