

**PROPOSAL
CLASS OF 2010 CONTEST**

Submitted to the BC Square & Round Dance Federation
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Proposal Summary:

I propose that the BCS&RDF hold two contests, one for square dance clubs and the other for round dance clubs called "The Class of 2010 Contest".

The winner of each contest would be the club which had the largest number of *New Dancers* in its field at the end of the 2009/2010 dance season.

I propose that a cash prize of \$250 be awarded to each winner at the 2010 AGM, this amount to be budgeted for at the 2009 AGM. (\$500 in total) We could also offer lesser cash prizes to second and third place finishers of \$100 and \$50 respectively, again to be budgeted for at the 2009 AGM. (\$300 in total)

There would be **no entry fee**; all Federation member clubs, established one full year prior to the commencement of their new dancer class would be encouraged to enter, provided that the club was in good standing with the Federation.

Contest hopefuls would be required to fill out an entry form which would be used by the Federation to gather information about how our most successful clubs go about recruiting new dancers.

Why *two* contests?

Square dance and round dance clubs operate at different thresholds. It takes more people to run a successful square dance club than it does to support a healthy round dance club. Also, the popularity of one dance form relative to the other fluctuates from time to time and since the intent of this initiative is to encourage growth in both areas, it wouldn't be productive to pit one against the other.

Why *any* contest? Why give money to *already* successful clubs?

The idea behind this contest is to give *all* clubs some incentive to dig a little harder, to put a little more effort into club building. In light of the fact that class sizes are down all over, virtually anybody with a class would have a chance of winning the contest...those two extra couples may just be enough to put you on top!

Many clubs and individuals involved with this activity have written off the future and have quit looking for new dancers and new ways of doing things. Still, there are others who manage to put together a class every year, in spite of the challenges we *all* face. Key to *this* proposal, is that regardless of whether a club has one or twenty new dancers, it won't be eligible to win the cash prize unless it tells the rest of us how the feat was accomplished!

We've allocated funding for new dancer classes which aren't viable; why not spend a little money on gathering information from members who run viable classes as well?

Why no entry fee?

If we charged an entry fee, only those who figured they had a really good chance of winning would enter the contest. The benefit to the Federation of this exercise is the exchange of ideas; the more contest hopefuls who come forward, the more we all stand to learn.

Conclusion:

It is my hope that this initiative will provide the impetus to jar a number of our members into action, that their success will be infectious and that our enthusiasm will bridge the gap between ourselves and those we wish to attract to our activity.

Thank-you for your consideration of this proposal.
Respectfully,
Gordon Ruedig.