

BC Square and Round Dance Federation

Board of Directors Meeting, Abbotsford, April 2nd, 2016

Region 1 Report

We started last year's report with this sentence "Where the rubber hits the road – total number of dancers – Region 1 is in almost the same position as last year." The same remains true this year, but with a small significant change. The number of registered dancers registered is 285, an increase of 4 from that report. Of these 47 are new dancers, offsetting both the routine attrition rate and the new graduates who did not continue.

It is estimated that about 25% of the new dancers were the result of a new "sales" initiative where the Region took a booth at the Saanich Fair held annually on the first weekend of September. It was manned by volunteers, had materials about all clubs, the planned new dancer classes and a constant slide show with a disc of Lorne Clayton calling as background.. We spoke with more than 500 people.. The positive feedback means that we are currently considering returning for 2016 with improved displays and a revised approach. The cost of the booth was approximately the income generated by 3 dancers registering for a full season of classes.

By the end of the year, the Region will have lost two callers. One through the much regretted passing away of Dave Baird and the second from the retirement, at the end of the season, of Denis Kirkpatrick after some 45 years behind the mike.

Garry Dodds has been running a caller school which includes two experienced callers who are using it as a refresher after a period away from the spotlight. They should provide backup strength for the Region. It is expected that the other students will gradually be given opportunities to call as they develop.

Problems from photography at dances have been experienced once again. The issue this time being the use of flashes. A few dancers, particularly some with vision issues, have adversely reacted. This has been addressed by banning flash usage.

The Region is fortunate that we have been able to continue with the Cross Trail News. This has only been possible because of the willingness of two extremely busy volunteers assuming additional loads. Alex Wotherspoon has combined the offices of Editor and Treasurer, whilst Pat Zeeman becomes the Circulation Guru.

Respectfully submitted.

Pamela & Dennis Sutton, Region 1 Delegates.

22nd February, 2016