

BCSRDF BOD Meeting

Abbotsford, BC, 7th April 2018

Region 1 – Dancers Report

Giving the bad news first, our Region has lost another club, the Cowichan Cloverleafs has ceased operating - so there is no club operating in Duncan. Their demographics combined with health issues made continuation not viable.

Our region now has 6 Square Dance Clubs and 2 Round Dance Clubs. The number of graduate dancers has fallen from 225 (2016-17) to 209 (2017-18), 15 Are attributable to the loss of Cowichan Cloverleafs. None of them have joined another club. The net loss from other clubs was just 1 dancer.

Regional membership has increased to 267 (2017-18) from 250 (2016-17) when new dancers are included, an increase of 6.8%. We have 3 new square dancer and 1 new round dancer class operating successfully. Last year the total of new dancers was 24 (2016-17) this year (2017-18) it is 57.

The success in attracting new dancers can probably be attributed to two major factors. One is the targeted use of social media, which has received major assistance from Brian Elmer. The second is the staggering of class times to avoid clashes and to provide a wider choice. One club offers them on Thursday evenings, another on Saturday afternoons and the third on Sunday evenings.

In addition, one caller is offering classes on Sunday afternoons as an offering from a recreational center. These dancers are not members of a club and their insurance is covered by the recreational centre policies. There was a similar class last year and dancers who graduated joined one of our clubs.

The Star Twirlers, having offered A1 lessons last summer are, hopefully, on route to improving their demographics at the A level.

Pamela & Dennis Sutton

Region 1 Delegates