
BC Square and Round Dance Federation

Board of Directors Meeting, Victoria, March 30th 2019

Region 1 Report

As of February 28th, 2019 our region had 207 members registered with a home club as opposed to 210 last year. The decrease of 3 dancers is disappointing as one of our clubs had 27 new dancers attending classes and graduating, but at the last report I received only about 4 had continued dancing this year. This was reflected in the Wednesday summer dance which are offered with a revolving panel of callers to offer an opportunity to maintain and/or brush up on skills acquired in classes. Almost none of the 27 attended. By contrast, another club which was in danger of folding attracted 12 new dancers and retained them all. The reason for the difference has not been identified.

In 2017-18, 3 square dance clubs and 1 round dance club offered lessons. This year there are, again 3 square dance clubs offering lessons and 2 round dance clubs. The headcount of new dancers is slightly higher, 35 as opposed to 33. The challenge will be to ensure the clubs improve their retention rate. The best way is to ensure each club offering lessons makes new dancers are welcome and to involves them as far as possible in club activities. It is encouraging to see that, in addition to the new dancers, an almost equal number of dancers attending classes are doing so to consolidate or upgrade their skills. This benefits everybody.

This year we have been able to revive having joint Executive Meetings between ourselves and the Caller/Cuers Association after a lapse of a couple of years. This has enabled us to start working together on topics of mutual concern and benefit to both. A major issue we are hoping to improve is public image believing it will lead to greater awareness of and interest in our activities. If successful, it should assist in both recruitment and retention.

As of the coming Board of Directors, Pamela and I shall be stepping down as Region 1 delegates. Our successors shall be decided within the next month. We would like to thank everyone we have met at the BCSRDF for the courtesies, advice and friendship we have been extended.

I, Dennis, look forward to continuing to provide good service to the BCSRDF in my capacity as First Vice-President and know that I shall be able to rely on Pamela for the support and guidance she has always provided.

Pamela & Dennis Sutton

Delegates, Region 1

28th February, 2019