

British Columbia Square and Round Dance Federation

Newsletter, October 2022

It is now approximately 5 weeks since the first resumption of dancing for the current year. How many clubs might resume was a mystery, but I am pleased to say that the results are better than we expected. Many clubs have been able to become active again and some have started new dancer classes. As was to be expected, the numbers of returning dancers is down substantially. This is a challenge for us to rebuild for the future and one which we should welcome. Use your ingenuity and keep us in touch with what you find really works.

Our adjourned AGM was held on the 16th of October for the purpose of receiving the financial reports for last year. These show we have a satisfactory balance of funds on hand. You will be pleased to learn that the refund of all dancer, caller, cuer and leader dues was approved for the years 2021 and 2022. This reflects the fact that we were not dancing in those years. The estimated cost to the federation of the refund is in the region of \$8000. Payment will be made to all clubs for them to use or apply as they see fit.

The budget for the current year was approved and, if all grants are taken up, will show a loss in excess of \$48,000. This loss will be compensated by a transfer from the building fund donation of \$100,000 which was received several years ago. Regular operating costs should be covered from dues.

I regret to report we have been advised that the Peachfest held in Penticton each year will be permanently discontinued. This is because of the passing of the stalwarts who were the principal organizers. It leaves an opening, if any other regional or club is interested, for them to fill the time slot.

The Federation has formed two new committees. One will look into opportunities for training new callers and/or Cuers as well as considering whether the grant available to assist with the costs of them attending lessons should be revised. The second is to look into the Social Square Dance programme which has appeared on the horizon and to make recommendations. More details on both can be found in the AGM Minutes.

As a reminder, applications for the Restart Grants will expire on 31st of March 2023.

A new initiative by Caller Lab is to invite regular dancers to attend next year's event which will be held in Nevada in April 2023.

We have requested a revision of the timing of Square Dance Awareness Week to the first week of September. This should improve its effectiveness when advertising in public for new dancers. Brian Elmer has agreed to prepare recommendations on how to incorporate this in social media advertising.

Dennis Sutton

President