

British Columbia Square and Round Dance Federation

Annual General Meeting

April 28th, 2024

Report by Association & Director at Large - Region 1

Lower Vancouver Island Western Square and Round Dance Association (LVIWSRDA)

Submitted by Gary Weeks

Four square and two round dance clubs have registered with the LVIWSRDA in Region 1 for the 2023-2024 dance season. Two Clubs – The Country Cousins and the Mavericks Square Dance Clubs – have held joint dances three times each month for the past season and are intending to split into individual clubs for the 2024 to 2025 year. This will be new! The Frontier Twirlers continued to dance twice a month and the Star Twirlers Plus Club-dance once a week at the Colwood Community Hall and twice a month at the Royal Oak Hall. The Star Twirlers Advanced group has been dancing two or three times a month at the Colwood Children's Hall. The two round dance clubs continued to dance with the Rainbow Rounders dancing weekly at Colwood and the Dance-A-Rounds dancing twice a month at Royal Oak.

We have lost the use of the Royal Oak Hall in Region 1, with the Royal Oak Hall being sold to Kenzen Karate. The Royal Oak Hall remains available until the end of August 2024 when all active rental contracts run out. We are not sure of what this will mean to the dance community at this time but we are seeking alternative dance venues and ideas at this time. This affects all dance clubs and dancers in this region who used the Royal Oak Hall.

There is one independent square dance club in region 1. The Trailblazers Club, dances at the Victoria Scout House and is registered with the BCSRDF and the CSRDS.

The Frontier Twirlers ran a new dancer program this past year. There are also two, caller run teach clubs. The Saanich Squares and the Sooke Squares each meet weekly during the September to April dance season and offer assistance and direction for new dancers. The Saanich Squares graduated a class of new dancers and offered practice to existing square dancers in dancing the Opposite Position! The Sooke Squares has

evolved into quite an established caller run club with two squares dancing each week. New dancers have been welcomed through out the fall.

The Salty Wheels Square Dance Club of Salt Spring Island remains inactive. The LVIWSRDA and the VDCTA continue to hold five Sunday afternoon workshop/meetings from September through to April. Support has been varied but due to additional communication, attendance has increased.

The LVIWSRDA and VDCTA introduced a new special dance this year! The New Year's Eve afternoon dance was a resounding success with a panel of callers and cuers. The 2024 Spring Round-up will be something to look forward to, as it is jointly sponsored by the LVIWSRDA & the VDCTA and is scheduled for Sunday, May 5th. A panel of callers always seems to attract more dancers.

The next joint LVIWSRDA-UVISDA event scheduled for May 26th with John Corrigan calling and Pat Zeeman cueing also seems to look like it is going to be a booked-up event. By bringing in an out of region caller or by having a panel of callers we are keeping our events attractive and innovative for everyone.

Six summer dances, as well as one Hall benefit dance, plus a special dance to close Royal Oak Hall, will be held on Wednesday evenings between May 31 and August 28, 2024 with half the dances being held at each of Royal Oak and Colwood Halls. The Rainbow Rounders Dance Club has scheduled three summer dances with one in each month of June, July and August.

There are 165 registered dancers (including 37 new dancers - Frontier Twirlers, Saanich Squares & Sooke Squares) in Region 1 for 2023-2024.

The following cannot be emphasised enough!

Region 1 website has a new website! The complete overhaul and update of our website has made information of upcoming dances and events widely available and convenient to everyone. Visitors and local members alike. In region and out of region dances are listed. Please see us at the following website; <https://region1.squaredance.bc.ca>

The Cross Trail News has issued its notice of last print issue – June-July-August of 2024! The Cross Trail News of the future will be an online only edition with the option for individuals or clubs to print off the edition if need be. Access will be through the Region 1 website.

We continue to do annual dances at the Victoria Folk Fest June 2, 2024 and Canada Day on the Gorge Picnic, July 1, 2024. These tend to be very public and fun events. We encourage everyone to come join us in having a great time or to visit us at either of these 2024 editions.

Gary Weeks

Carol Young

Director at Large – Region 1 (LVIWSRDA)

President LVIWSRDA

April 13, 2024