

# EUROPEAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 15, Number 1

December 2018

## Editorial

Hello dance friends

Again Christmas and Sylvester are coming into view so time for your European Newsletter.

Already we reached Volume 15.

Looking through the pages of the former issues I found that this is for the 16<sup>th</sup> time.

We started in 2003 with 2 issues and again in 2005 we had 2. In 2012 there was no Newsletter.

Over this time we became known outside Europe not only by reading this, but also by sending me articles for publishing in our Newsletter.

The main event for us here in the Netherlands was by far the European Convention in Amsterdam.

Personally I had my doubts about Amsterdam because of the costs, but I am happy to say that I was wrong. Over 2000 dancers proved me wrong! Amsterdam was the right choice for this event. A big compliment to Maarten and his crew for getting it all "up and running".

I do not know who came up with the idea for a European event. But after some meetings in 1996 the first one was held in Hochheim Germany in 1997. We had a change to the 'even years' and with one exception it continues now every second year.

Due to the new regulation by the European Union on data protection I had to ask everybody on my list for the Newsletter for permission to keep his e-mail address in my file.

About 75 % of the mails were responded by an OK. From the others there was no reaction, also after a second try. I have to delete these persons from my list.

Of course if someone wants to be included again, they can contact me by e-mail

Corry and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a fine 2019 in good health and lots of fun with dancing.

Happy dancing,

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Dear friends,

Wow... What a year !!!

With 524 dancers attending the Trail End Dance on Thursday and 2124 dancers (from 25 countries) during the weekend, we had one of the biggest European Square- & Round Dance Conventions ever.

With a small team we started this journey 3 years ago and during the weekend we had over 50 volunteers helping to "run" this European Convention.

In the EAASDC bulletin of November 2018 we have published an article about the EC. I have added this article to this document.

Besides the European Convention, not so many things have happened in 2018. We have currently 11 Square and/or Rounddance Clubs. Unfortunately, the number of dancers is still declining. There are hardly any new students. We hoped that we could present our wonderful activity to the Dutch public via newspapers and television, but nothing has worked. No TV channel came to make a reporting. This is really a big loss for our activity...

We still hope that we can change this downhill momentum into an uphill momentum but we have our doubts...

In 2019 we will host several events you can visit. If you are considering a trip to the Netherlands, please have a look at [www.squaredance.nl](http://www.squaredance.nl), choose your language and you will easily find your way to our clubs or dance event. You may always contact us for further information at [info@squaredance.nl](mailto:info@squaredance.nl) in English, German or Dutch.

Finally, I would like to wish you all, on behalf of the Dutch board, staff members and the Square/Round dancers, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Maarten Weijers  
President of the NVSD

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A European Convention has come to an end... (published in the EAASDC magazine, November 2018)

It all started back in 2015, talking about organizing a Jamboree in the Netherlands. Due to school holidays it was not possible to organize a Fall Round Up but then Wolfgang "Wuffi" Daiss (EAASDC President and a good friend of mine) came with the idea to organize the 2018 European

Square- and Round Dance Convention in the Netherlands. It was decided in December 2015 that the three Dutch EAASDC member clubs would organize the 2018 Convention.

In July 2016, during the European Square- and Round Convention in the United Kingdom, we have presented the 2018 Convention and from that moment on we have visited many countries and clubs to present our Convention. And we have seen the result...

During the last months before the Convention, the number of registrations increased each week. Therefore, the organization decided to look for a 7<sup>th</sup> dance hall and to hire extra callers to make sure we would have enough space for all the dancers.

The weekend really started with the Grand Square Trail End Dance on Thursday night. This Trail End Dance was, with (recalculated) 524 dancers, a huge success. Michael Kellogg did a tremendous job the whole evening, entertaining the dancers that had arrived early from many countries.

Friday morning, we finished the last preparations for the Convention and the campground was ready for the 80 campers and caravans. Also, the sleeping hall (and dance hall) was prepared for use. On Friday evening the official program started and it took us with lots and lots of dancing to the official finish on Sunday afternoon.

With 19 callers and 6 cuers from 8 countries we presented an outstanding program, offering Square dancing in 7 levels and Round dancing in 5 Phases. In total we offered 122 hours of dancing.

After some re-calculation we can present to you the correct number of dancers and countries of the European Convention 2018: we had 2124 dancers from 25 countries. If you like to know the number of dancers per country, please take a look at the EC website; [www.europeanconvention2018.nl](http://www.europeanconvention2018.nl).

It was an amazing view to see so many dancers in all the halls during the EC weekend. As Chairman of the organization team, I'm very proud of all the people who have helped us during the weekend. A special thank you to those as well. It's really appreciated!

A big THANK YOU:

- to Wolfgang "Wuffi" Daiss as president of the EAASDC who believed in us from the first moment that we were able to organize this event;
- to B2B Design in the person of Ulli Hantke for creating the website, flyers, leaflets and all other presentation material;
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- Continued from page 2
- to the members of the Tulip Twirlers SDC, the Rainbow Strollers SDC and the Motiveters Advanced Square Dance for their support;
- to all the volunteers from the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany who have helped during the weekend;
- to all Callers and Cuers who have worked during the weekend to entertain the dancers;
- to “Bose Professional” in the person of Dirk Fryns and Van Vliet Music (Dick, Daniel and all the others) for their full support during the weekend;
- to “Badges and More” for the service of engraving the badges and printing the mugs;
- to “Square Dance Shop Rhein Main” for making and selling the Kissing doll skirts, bolo-ties and other stuff;
- to “Diamond-Printers-Hamburg” for printing the Convention Polo’s;
- to “Dangle King” for printing the dangle which will always make us remember this great weekend;

And..

to the European Square- and Round Dance Convention 2018 organization team for the many hours they all have put in this European Convention. Thank you Paula, Wil, Barbara, Miranda, John, Joke, Francis and Wil!! Also a big thank you to Carel Nagtegaal and Piet Walhout for your activities during the last months before the EC. Highly appreciated!

But most of all the biggest THANK YOU to all the dancers who traveled to Amsterdam for attending the European Square- and Round Convention 2018. Without you this Convention would have gone down the drain...

Once again, thank you for being a part of the European Square- and Round Dance Convention 2018 in Amsterdam. And we wish the EC 2020 Sweden team lots of success with the organization of the next European Convention.

On Behalf of the EC team 2018,  
Maarten Weijers

### **. Report from the President of BAASDC for European Newsletter 2018**

One year on and I’m still in post; it’s been a very busy year!

Over 100 dancers from Great Britain attended the European Convention held in July in Amsterdam. It was my first opportunity to meet up with my fellow Presidents and I found it a very interesting and enjoyable experience. Over 2000 dancers attended the Convention and it was truly wonderful to whirl and twirl with dancers from many countries. No-one can fail to have been impressed by the high standard of Top Class Callers and Cuers. So I have suggested to our dancers that they seriously consider going abroad to dance. Brexit? What Brexit?

Blue Planet 2 on our television channel BBC2 was narrated by one of our living legends David Attenborough. He highlighted the considerable problems caused worldwide by plastic. I suggested that Clubs and dancers do their bit to reduce single use plastic and that when attending any dance event they take their own reusable mugs.

We have a wonderful monthly magazine ‘Let’s Square Dance’ edited by Peter Wright. You too can access it by email all over the world or receive a hard copy. Details are on our website. I have been recycling back copies of the magazine in order to give them to new dancers and other interested parties. Over the years I have interviewed 27 dancers Callers and Cuers for the Magazine. Many of those interviewed were visitors to our shores and include Brian Hotchkies from Australia, Miranda and John Visser from the Netherlands, Bronc Wise, Johnny Preston and Jerry Jestin from the United States of America and Thorsten Geppert from Germany. So you see our Magazine is truly International.

I have tried to raise the profile of Round Dancing. Cuers Teresa and Paul Hart renamed Rounds ‘Choreographed Ballroom’ when advertising an introductory session as it seemed a better description of the activity to non-dancers. Also we are trying to encourage all Square Dances to include Rounds.

Ray Pepper a dancer at Chalfont Grand Squares club whose caller is Paul Bristow was chatting to a non-dancing friend about how it gets more difficult to dance as you get older. His friend replied ‘well, when you can’t dance anymore why don’t you take up Calling.’ I’ll endorse that, for as we all know, ALL callers do is stand on a stage and tell people where to go! There the problem of a lack of Callers solved at a stroke!

We are well aware that Square and Rounds dancers are an Endangered Species and as such need protecting; and who exactly is going to do that? Well as I look around Europe I think it’s going to have to be you and me isn’t it?

Susan Ellis

President of British Association of American Square Dance Clubs.

## EAASDC News and Info for the European Newsletter 2018

### EAASDC, general info

No remarkable news from the association business, just the daily work as usual.

In reference to the EAASDC member clubs there has been no significant change on total numbers over this year:

Austria 9, Belgien 1, Suisse 7, France 3, Lichtenstein 1, Netherlands 4, Russia 6, Slowakei 1, Germany 499 = total 531

In order to gain new dancers for our hobby, we will try various projects for a testperiode, which are supposed to increase the attraction to "snuff square dance". We have learned that no one likes to bind himself anymore for a long period of time to learn something without knowing anything about it.

Therefore:

- The beginner class will be shortened to a three-month timeframe rather than 9 months as it has been handled in the past. The goal is to finish Basic one, convince the Newbies of our hobby and then continue with the next programs.
- Crash classes on weekends, especially for the younger generations

A short review of 2018 with a few highlights:

### Spring Jamboree 2018 (9.-11.March 2018)

Despite the short period of arranging time a great dance has been taken place. Thanks to the "Coconuts SDC Leinzell" in cooperation with the "Unicorn Promenaders Schw. Gmünd" for organizing this event.

### European Convention (20-22 July 2018)

It was EAASDC's turn for the Convention in 2018 and some of our member clubs in the Netherlands have volunteered to undertake this mega event. By all means, nobody ever had expected this overwhelming result which finally ended up in a participation of more than 2.000 dancers from all 5 continents. It is such a wonderful experience dancing in a square together with dancers from Russia, England, China, Taiwan, France, Germany, America, Australia and other countries, hardly understand each other, but are smiling, laughing and having fun together, regardless where they are coming from. These dancers are just happy being among old and new friends and I'm glad to be part of this worldwide friendship. Respect and appreciation to "Amsterdam and its team" having really made a difference and set samples in all aspects. Many thanks to the Tulip Twirlers Square Dance Club, Rainbow Strollers, Motiveters Advanced Square Dancing for their tremendous

engagement and work to make this event an unforgettable one.

### Fall Round Up (31 August – 2 September 2018)

A great experience was the FRU in Pinneberg as well, which was organized by our most famous youth Club "The Lions" and their hosting-partner "The Teddycoats". Everything was arranged to make the dancers feel great and welcome at this event and all the Program-leaders created an exciting atmosphere. It was remarkable and lovely to see such a lot of young people at this event, not only calling, cueing, prompting and dancing but also helping the hosting clubs, which is a definite proof for a positive youth development in our hobby. A big "Thank you" to the Lions and the Teddycoats for organising this wonderful event.

Coming up:

### Spring Jamboree 2019 (8.-10.March 2019)

For quite some time we had the fear that there will be no Spring Jamboree in 2019. Finally I received the message beginning October that some club will jump in and we will have some applicant for hosting the Spring Jamboree 2019. At the time, I write this article we still have to complete some formal requirements, but I'm convinced that we will make it happen that the Spring Jamboree 2019 will take place in Frankfurt. The hosting Club will be "the Beaux & Belles" and they will get help from other Clubs in the area. My appreciation and many thanks go the Club and all its helpers and I wish them great success. Please check our event-calendar under <https://eaasdc.eu/eu/index.php?id=5> for more details and come to Frankfurt for great dancing and friendship.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, peace and happiness.

Wolfgang "Wuffi" Daiss  
President EAASDC e.V.

## DAASDC

### **Towards the end of the year we are looking back at 2018 and forward towards 2019**

We almost maintain the number of square dancers in Denmark, but despite several initiatives we are having problems attracting new as well as younger people into our activity.

For those of us who attend various dance events the highlights were of course the European Convention in Amsterdam as well as our own Danish National Convention in Ikast.

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I wish to congratulate the organizing group behind the European Convention 2018. It was one of the most impressively organized and successful European Conventions enjoyed by more than 2.000 square dancers. From our Danish dancers and callers there were nothing but great praise to you. THANK YOU, well done!

Our own Danish National Convention passed according to plans but unfortunately with less dancers than expected. In 2019 we hope to improve as the festival is scheduled later than the Swedish National Convention.

During the Danish National Convention in 2018 we made an agreement with a drone pilot (civil UAV operator) to record videos from our Open Air Dance. "Square Dance seen from Above!" You can watch clips on this link:

<http://squaredancedanmark.dk/Gallery.aspx> choose the "Droneoptagelser 2018" option. We found this to be a fun and different way of presenting square dancing and we are using it in our Square Dance promotions.

As well as anyone else in Europe DAASDC was forced to adapt to the new GDPR rules that are now mandatory all over the EU. Apparently, we managed to adapt correctly and fortunately all our member clubs are connected to an organization that is supported by lawyers who help us to act correctly.

Our latest initiative to spread knowledge about square dancing is, that we in cooperation with one of the most well-known Danish 'Folk High Schools' are preparing an "open week for all". DAASDC is promoting this within the square dancing society and the 'Folk High School' will promote within their own framework. There will be two 'classes': One for new dancers and beginners and one for Plus, A1 and A2 dancers. We sincerely hope that a lot of people feel the urge to try this. At the same time there will be several other courses – short and long. The intention is that ALL others attending the school will have to dance with us a whole afternoon to be introduced to square dancing. The school offers courses as long as up to 36 weeks where primarily people aged 17 to 25 are attending. In DAASDC we hope to 'plant a seed' for square dancing to these young people.

During the week there will - beside square dancing - be offered lectures, guided excursions in the local nature, song nights with an Irish Folk Singer, 'High School Night' and many other events.

In Denmark 'Folk High Schools' are an about 200 years old tradition and still going strong. However this is the first time that one of the larger schools in cooperation with DAASDC is offering Modern Square Dance. The event will take place from January 27<sup>th</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup> 2019. We are presenting Bjørn Andersson and Paul Bristow as callers during this week.

Learn more from <https://brandbjerg.dk/eng/>.

In DAASDC we are looking forward to yet another Danish Convention in Sæby in northern Denmark. We aim to keep our head up high although we know that it is hard to compete with several other activities during summer. We stay optimistic and are trying to think 'outside the box' all the time to open other peoples' eyes to square dancing activities.

Another joy is that iPAC is one of the dance festivals that we can look forward to. For a lot of Danish dancers the iPAC is a highlight in their square dancing experience and a loved tradition. Luckily we don't have to travel too far to attend. The iPAC is very much a tradition where we can still see that square dancing is a worldwide activity. Here we see no limitations regarding neither religion, sexual preference, age, education or profession that separate us. In square dancing there is no quarrel or struggle. Square dance is the principal focus, we ALL assemble in a community with no borders. In the dance we are all together in a binding fellowship where we regard each other with happiness and smile. "I oblige to you and you oblige to me and we all oblige to our common activity: The Square Dance."

With these words I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Lotte Vangsgaard  
President, DAASDC

**What's new in JAPAN**

Here is an update from Japan.

I would like to report about two topics from us this time:

- 1) the result of "2018 All Japan Square Dance Convention"; and
- 2) the progress of "The 3<sup>rd</sup> JSDA's mid-term action plan" for increasing the membership.

**2018 All Japan Square Dance Convention in Numazu**

This 57th commemorative event of the organization was held in Numazu of Chubu Area Unification Branch Office from September 14th, Friday, to September 16th, Sunday. 1,120 dancers gathered. There were 6 halls to have Mainstream-Easy, Mainstream, Plus, Advance, Challenge1, Round Dance/Line Dance. Next year, 58<sup>th</sup> All Japan Square Dance Convention will be held in Hiroshima of Chu-Shikoku Area Unification Branch Office from September 06th, Friday, to September 08th, Sunday.

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As you may know, Hiroshima is the place where atomic bomb was used first in the world. The convention is held in the memorial park of atomic bomb. So, it will be become a memorable event. We are looking forward meeting you at the convention in Hiroshima.



**Photo of 2018 All Japan Square Dance Convention in Numazu>**

**Progress of The 3<sup>rd</sup> JSDA's 3-year mid-term action plan**

The membership of our organization which had been upward all thru its history until 2013, reached a plateau of about 14,500 and down a little at annual renewal.

The latest membership is 14,336 people as of November, 2018.

**The JSDA's Membership Statistics can be used for determining our strategy!!**



Considering above situation, the "The 3<sup>rd</sup> 3-year mid-term action plan" from the start of the fiscal year, April, 2018 through the end of the fiscal year, March, 2021 has been set as the top priority policy of

the JSDA: Our new target was set to aim at 1,400 new members every year.

JSDA analyzed the reasons of decreasing members as; i) many aging of members (50% is now older than 70) and ii) Japanese are not acquainted with Square Dancing.

Our strategy is to count the number of people who experienced the square dancing at entry level. "100 thousand experiential dancers" was targeted to let general public realize "WHAT THE SQUARE DANCE IS". We hope this activity will succeed the 1,400 targeted new membership every year through better recruiting.

So far, the activity for 100 thousand people to experience square dancing is in progress as we planned: the square dance leaders are becoming more conscious about this move every year. Compared with the figure at the end of the first mid-term of this plan, this move has been penetrated into all the Japanese square dancers and club leaders. We hope all the members share the same idea to achieve the goal.

Also, to promote the purpose more effectively, we have translated the CALLERLAB's "Square Dance Marketing Manual" into Japanese. By studying this manual, our goal will be accelerated.

It is a fact to be possible very much to end in 11,000 in 2020 when 1,200 of nature decreases every year without carrying out this kind of activity. In contrast, we must get 1,400 new members every year.

We really want to spread our beloved Square Dance, cooperating with the foreign organizations, exchanging information with the worldwide Square Dance lovers.

Hiroshi Nakagawa,  
Chairman of International Affairs Committee,  
Member of Japan Square Dance Association  
(JSDA)

**LION Squares.**

The Lion Squares Germany e.V. is an association of more than 300 young dancers below the age of 30 from more than 11 countries. Therefore we rely on club dances in cooperation with local clubs and nationwide specials to be able to dance together. In 2018 we had a multitude of these opportunities, where hundreds of square dancers gathered. We started the year with our annual Youth Dance nearby Stuttgart in April with 60 club members. During that event we also had our annual general meeting, where the whole board got reelected with Henriette Rehn as President, Georg Seyboldt as Vicepresident, Meike Dannecker as Treasurer and Carina Bahn as Secretary.

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Furthermore, our coordinators east (Meike Beyen), south (Andreas Groß) and west (Annika Bendel) got reelected. The new coordinator north is Ina Dannecker. After the Youth Dance, the final phase of organization of the Fall Round Up in Pinneberg from 31.08. until 02.09. started. In charge of this organization were Sönke Wilts and Jenny Beyen for the Lions together with the Teddycoats SDC Uetersen. They were supported by 50 hard-working club members during the special dance und a multitude of helping hands during the two years prior to the event. At this point, we want to thank all backers and callers who helped make the FRU so successful.

Besides this big event, we also hosted five club dances together with local clubs all over Germany throughout the year. In April, we danced together with the Söllingen Swingers in Gernsbach close to Rastatt, in July with the Rainbow Dancers in Ottendorf close to Kiel, in August with The Dancing Northstars in Flensburg, in October with the Joyhunters SDC in Saarbrücken and in November with the Running Turtles in Augsburg. We welcomed many dancers at each single event. Furthermore, we arranged two Mainstream crash classes; one in Hamburg together with the Stintfangs and another one in Vienna with The Workshoppers. We want to thank all organizers who did all the planning together with the local clubs and were responsible for a smooth course of events. Now we are excited about our 10<sup>th</sup> Youth Dance next year in Hannover from May 10-12. Additionally, there are already a number of club dances in the works with hopefully a large attendance. We wish everyone Merry Christmas and a good start into the New Year and look forward to meeting you somewhere next year!

**CSCTA****What is going on in the Czech Republic and Slovakia**

I remember that two decades ago, when I started dancing, there seemed to be a Special Dance almost each weekend (excluding summer). We used to have dozens of clubs with hundreds of dancers in total, and most clubs organized their weekend dances every year (typical "weekend dance" starts on Friday evening and finishes early in the Sunday afternoon in our area). As time went by, the numbers went down. Nowadays, we have a little more than 20 active clubs, and when you take a look at the calendar of events, you will find that among several smaller weekend dances, two major ones are being organized: Hornický šacht'ák in Ostrava, taking place in January, and "Májovka" in Bratislava on the first weekend in May. The majority of the active Czech and Slovak SD/RD population attends these events, so if you want to make new friends and meet the old ones, make sure you come. We also hope to

have another big dance organized in 2019: if everything goes well, the CSCTA Convention will take place as a separate weekend dance at the beginning of April.

A great thing is that many clubs in our area have realized a simple fact: the better the dancers are, the better the dancing is. As a result, clubs organize one-day "practice" dances every now and then: usually, it is some kind of workshop, focused on improving the dancing skills of those who attend it. The numbers of people in classes have decreased considerably in recent years, and there are clubs that do not open classes simply because they have nobody to teach. We are experimenting with "teaching weekends" for beginners as well as for dancers who already have some experience: it is definitely not a solution suitable for everyone but it is a great workaround for those who cannot or do not want to commit to weekly classes. Time will show how effective this approach is.

Last but definitely not least, I am happy to see several new (or newer) callers among us. Their reasons to stand up with a microphone in hand differ: some want to try what it is like to be a caller, some want to help keep their clubs alive when the hitherto caller is not available any more, others feel that the dancers in their clubs need to be exposed to more voices, more variety in choreography and more practice. The attendance at caller seminars is surprisingly high and the progress that our newbies make is amazing. Hopefully, they will help the activity grow and be attractive and interesting for existing as well as new dancers.

Tomas "Doug" Machalik

President of the CzechoSlovak Callers & Teachers Association

**CHINA****Beijing**

**2018-11-29**

**Square Dance in China in the year 2018**

There are over 10 square dance clubs in Beijing, China and square dance has made a big development in the year 2018. Here I just take the Smile International Square Dance Club (the short name is Smile Club) as an example.

Smile Club has just celebrated its 12 years birthday in Oct., 2018 and there are more than 100 members in the club. They have made a lot of rich and colorful activities in this year.

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**1. To attract new people and hold the technical trainings for different dance levels.**

They had the students class consisting more than 30 people separately in February, March and October, 2018. These students have done the basic training already. Meanwhile the higher level dance trainings were about A1/C1/C2/C3 for 30 skillful people and they are exercising right now with full of enthusiasm every week.



**Figure 1. Training class**

**2. Join the 10<sup>th</sup> European Square Dance Convention EAASDC in Amsterdam**

The club had organized a trip for 15 dancers to Amsterdam, Netherlands to join the big convention in the period of July 20-22, 2018. They met the Chairman Wuffi of EAASDC and many famous excellent younger callers.

This convention made those present not only learning more about square dance in the European countries but also knowing square dance has a long way to go in China.



**Figure 2. The banners of the Smile Club and The Alliance of China International Square Dance Clubs**



**Figure 3: 15 dancers joined the 10<sup>th</sup> EAASDC in Amsterdam in July, 2018**

**3. Beijing International Square Dance Autumn Festival hold in the Bird's Nest**

Mr. Brian Hotchkies from Australia made his third visit to China for the Beijing International Square Dance Autumn Festival during the period of September 16-25, 2018. One big activity is the dance party consisting of 140 dancers in the Bird's Nest in Beijing. Mr. Brian Hotchkies had taken the Chinese music "I never meet you" as the singing call to the party for the first time in his calling life on September 21, 2018.

Mr. Brian Hotchkies performed his first training television recording also about the Basic and Mainstream with a floor full of Chinese dancers. There were 5 square dance parties held in Beijing during Brian's visit in Beijing and 300 dancers joined the dance parties. The dancers made the parties complete and they were captivated and happy.



**Figure 4. Group photo of Beijing International Square Dance Autumn Festival with Brian**



**Figure 5. Square dance inside of the Bird's Nest**

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Figure 6. Square dance out side of the Bird's Nest

#### 4. 2018 Beijing International Square Dance Autumn Festival

Mr. Joachim Rührenbeck, one of the famous callers from Germany paid, during his business trip, his second visit for the Festival after Brian's visit. October is the golden season in Beijing and the dancers are very exciting to welcome callers from abroad for the Autumn Festival. Mr. Joachim Rührenbeck stayed in the period of October 5-14, 2018 and called a few dance parties for different dance levels including Mainstream to Challenge. Meanwhile Mr. Joachim Rührenbeck held a special calling class. The dancers praised his clear teaching attitude to the class.



Figure 7. Group photo with Mr. Joachim R.

Mr. Joachim Rührenbeck joined the Foreign Language Garden Party which is regularly hold in the Chaoyang Park every year in October and his show of calling for square dancing won the applause of the audiences on site.



Figure 8. Joined after the Foreign Language Garden Party

#### 5. Old problems are:

- 1). There is lack of skillful callers in China.
- 2). Dancers hope to move fast through the dance levels but are not extending within the levels because of the language difficulty with local people and square dance is relative young compared to other countries.

Anyway, at the end of the year 2018, all of Chinese square dancers are full of confidence to learn more about the ins and outs of enjoying the square dance world and further development through the internet.

**Strawberry Feng**

#### SAASDC

Dear friends all over. I hope that you all have had a nice and joyful dance year also in 2018.

Let me update you on what has happened for us during this year. As earlier said SAASDC have member clubs apart from Sweden also in Finland, Åland and Norway.

In the board of SAASDC we have continued to focus on recruit new dancers but also to keep the dancers we already have.

One of the activities in order to recruit new dancers, clubs have organized an increased number of try out dances and open-air dances. The result is hard to evaluate but we believe that we can see a small increase in the number of dancers. On the other hand, we can sadly notice that the number of clubs is slowly decreasing.

One of the main issues for us during this year, is to use modern communications through social media sites. Over a couple of years, we have introduced new homepage, Facebook and a new dance list to make it easier for the dancers to find and to avoid collisions between different dance occasions.

We believe that member clubs must be very active on their home ground in order to get more dancers. Therefore, SAASDC have a recruiting fund, where clubs can get contribution for new and interesting activities.

If you are planning a trip to Sweden, please have a look at [www.squaredans.se](http://www.squaredans.se), choose dance list, for the latest information about our dances. You may always contact us for further information at [info@squaredans.se](mailto:info@squaredans.se)

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tommy Hansson  
President SAASDC

## Calendar of Conventions & Jamborees

### 2019

March	08—10	EAASDC	Spring Jamboree	Frankfurt	Germany
April	18 – 21	SAASDC	37 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Örebro	Sweden
April	24—28	NSDSA	60 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Delorama	Tasmania.AUS
May	24—26	ECTA	49 <sup>th</sup> Round D Festival	Stuttgart	Germany
May/June	31—02	DAASC	28 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Sæby	Danmark
June	24—29	NSDC	68 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Atlanta GA	USA
Aug/sep	30-- 01	EAASDC	Fall Round Up	tba	Germany
September	06—08	JSDA	58 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Hiroshima	Japan

### 2020

April	10—14	NSDSA	61 <sup>st</sup> Convention	Blue Mountains	NSWAustralia
June	17 –20	NSDC	69 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Spokane WA	USA
July	3 -- 5	SAASDC	11 <sup>th</sup> Eur Convention	Sigtuna	Sweden

### 2021

June	24--26	NSDC	70 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Jackson MISS	USA
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