

CHAIN REACTION SDC NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2018

A GRAND WEEKEND IN CUMBRIA

Alan Trengove (Blue Diamonds) and Derek Stuart (Aberdeen Kilt Kickers) got together once again for a weekend in the Lake District with about eight squares of dancers from up and down the country, and were joined by a few more dancers from ChAin ReaCtion and Lune Valley on the Saturday evening. Alan and Derek are both great callers and gave us a super weekend.

The square dancing was full of fun and interspersed with a few round dances. We also “Waltzed Across Texas”, added an American Barn Dance and twirled through the Gay Gordons, despite a few misgivings from Sassenachs wearing “Please Don’t Twirl Me” badges!

One amusing incident was Derek waiting in a square to dance when he was joined by the beautiful Isla. Fine, you might say. Except that Isla is his dog, who waited patiently by his side until made to move out!

The Cumbria Grand is a fine hotel set into the hillside, so that the front rooms have a view across Morecambe Bay and the back rooms look out onto the trees and the hillside. The weather was very kind and enabled us all to get out and enjoy the Lakeland scenery and nearby towns and beauty spots as well as enjoying the excellent food.



Above photo by courtesy of Gun Remhal, a Swedish lady who came with the Scottish dancers.



The Grange weekend also provided me with the opportunity to get a photograph of John and Sandra which was missing from the February newsletter. Sandra wanted to check my photo to make sure she hadn't got her eyes closed, as she is apt to do on photographs. However, as she didn't have her

glasses on, she couldn't check it. Hmmm. There must be a message in there somewhere!

- Letter received from the Hearing Dogs Charity

Dear Supporters

We have reluctantly taken the decision that we will no longer continue collecting used stamps and foreign coins via our current method.

We were able to raise £6,566 during 2017, thanks to the efforts of our supporters. However most of this was raised during the first half of the year and recent months have seen a significant drop, not only in the value of the stamps but also in the quality of service that our supporters were receiving.

As all indications are that we are unlikely to see a marked improvement in either area we feel that we should take our efforts in a different direction.

We will not be issuing new envelopes or boxes with immediate effect, and ask that you complete your collections and send them to Xchange Master as soon as you can and no later than 31st March 2018.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us by collecting stamps and foreign coins and hope you will continue to follow our work in the future.

AUNTIE VAL

Many members and friends said a final farewell to Auntie Val last month. Our thoughts and good wishes are with Di and Mu at this sad time.

AGM

A combined report was prepared by the Secretary and the Chairman on the activities of the club during the year and the Treasurer presented a comprehensive report of the finances. The Committee were unanimously re-elected and were thanked by the members, as was the Auditor. The extra helpers were thanked and given gifts of appreciation.

Norman reported that the hall has been successfully booked for the 2019 dates as a new committee member has taken over the bookings for Samlesbury Memorial Hall. The dates list has been circulated and can be obtained from Val.

WOMBOURNE from Val

As I set off down the M6 towards Wombourne, I did wonder why I was subjecting myself to another weekend of stress – especially when Jackie B had done a runner to India and David W was moving house, both pretty extreme measures I felt to avoid a C1 weekend. By the time I had reached my mandatory coffee and chocolate brownie stop at Stafford, I had talked myself into being more optimistic, knowing that Ian McConnell is a very kind and dancer friendly caller. However the optimism didn't last long as on arrival at the hall Ian had somehow taken on the appearance of Tony Collingwood which for me is a much more frightening prospect. Marilyn, David, Di, Terry and I bravely entered the fray and after the initial nerves managed pretty well and didn't let the side down – well not often. Tony gave us really interesting and challenging choreography but at an achievable speed and by the end of the weekend we all felt we learned a lot. Tony had kindly stepped in to do the weekend as Ian was unwell and he deserved the big thank you he got for giving us a great weekend. There are a lot of strong dancers at Wombourne who are patient, helpful and encouraging and if you haven't been down there you should give it a try. Between the day and evening sessions 11 of us went out for a meal together which thanks to David was a real bargain as he seemed to have a never ending pocket full of discount vouchers which he generously shared with us all. The next C1 weekend is in October and later in the year I will have booking forms so hopefully more of you will join us then.

Val

VISITORS

It was nice to have visitors at the club this month. We were delighted to welcome Rod and Sue who called in on their way home after the Grange weekend. They have returned to dancing after a break of a few years having previously been C2 dancers. Unfortunately we are too far away from their home for them to join us often but we look forward to seeing them again when they are in the area.

REQUEST FOR OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION

Could anyone please offer one night's accommodation for Carol and Rick Mason on the night of the Chain Reaction Summer Dance following Lytham this year? Carol and Rick (who live in Australia) were at Lytham in 2016, following their attendance at the European Convention held in Stratford-on-Avon, and some of you may remember meeting them as they became very friendly with our members from Chain Reaction. They are 'A' dancers but also did the C1 Teach



with us. Barbara has sent this photograph of Carol and Rick which may remind you of who they are.

This year they will be attending the European Convention in Amsterdam followed by visits to some other European clubs, and ending up in England. They have already booked to attend Lytham again this year, including the C1 Teach, and will also be attending the Chain Reaction Summer Dance after Lytham. They will be hiring a car to get about but would be delighted if someone could offer them accommodation for one night following our Dance.

If you can help, please talk to Barbara.

A2 WORKSHOP

Sunday. 3rd June 2018

The Halton Centre

Caller Di Green

Tea, coffee and juice
available

Light refreshments can
be bought from the
cafeteria at the Halton
Centre.

2.00 to 2.15 setting up

2.15 to 6.15 dancing

6.15 to 6.30 clearing up

For all A2 dancers.
Please let a committee
member know if you will
be able to attend.

- Footnote: If you still have any used postage stamps for our collection, please be sure we get them this month. Thank you.

