

Australian Callers Federation



CallerLink

The Official Newsletter of the
Australian Callers' Federation

Number #186

<http://www.aussiecallers.org.au/>

February 2008

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ACF Chairman's Report.

Hi everybody. To start with, I would like to wish you all a very happy and safe New Year. May all your wishes turn into new square dancers. (I hope you have a lot of wishes)

This year we will see a number of important events taking place. None more important than the Minilab following the Convention in Brisbane.

Secondly, members of the Board have been busy structuring the rules regarding split level calling and eligibility for programming at Nationals. This matter will be finalized by the next Board meeting in Brisbane for application at the following National in Perth 2009.

I would like to express my thanks to our editor Jeff Garbutt for his untiring work in getting Callerlink out on time every 2 months. Also the people who regularly contribute with articles to fire our continued interest. I know that Jeff has asked us all from time to time to contribute. Unfortunately few do. And that includes me, not withstanding my report.

Perhaps we should all make a point to contribute just ONE article per year, or even every 2 years. That would keep Jeff happy and off our backs for at least 2-3 years, (*I didn't know I was that bad – Ed*). Seriously though, most callers perhaps feel that they have nothing to offer the more experienced callers. But I am sure that we all have some interesting anecdotes that we can relate to and share with the rest of us. In fact I'll lead the way by making my contribution this month. (Spontaneous decision)

I am still in holiday mode and I will not be motivated entirely until 23 January when we open with our traditional Australia Day Dance at the Dianella Rangers. Marilyn and I have thoroughly enjoyed our time off and are making the most of it after the last hectic 6 months renovating.

Once again, I on behalf of the Board members, wish you a successful year of square dancing and square dance calling.

Jeff Van Sambeeck
Chairman

Editor's Ramblings

Well there certainly are challenging times around in Australia and even the world. We have issues such as climate change, water crisis, rising petrol prices, rising interest rates, world peace still not realised, hunger, poverty and fewer square dancers. Now how the heck do I fit "square dancing" into the same sentence as "peace and poverty" you wonder? So do I. But I reckon that everyone needs to do what they can towards lifting the spirits of the people in Australia. That includes all types of activities whether it is bowling, golfing, yachting, orienteering, geocaching or square dancing. Square dancing has the unique ability to encourage friendship, fitness, music and fun. These are all the same attributes that everybody in Australia needs to lift their spirits and hopes. So instead of saying "square dancing is not going too well" we could be saying to everyone else in the non-dancing world "hey people, we are here to brighten up your lives with joy and hope!"

Think about it.

Jeff Garbutt

DAVID HOOPER

I would like to send condolences through this issue to Jenny, Michelle, & Graham on the death of David Hooper from Victoria. He will be greatly missed by the members of the Essendon Square Dance Club as I know they enjoyed his company & his calling.

David was the sole caller for the Essendon Square Dance Club for 32 years. As founding caller of the club David ran numerous learners classes, teaching & introducing many new people to our activity. He also taught many callers the art of calling & gave them the opportunity to call & establish themselves behind the microphone. It was my pleasure to call for the last (their 32nd.) birthday back in October of this year. David was visibly not well at that time, but he continued to come along & support the club & its members. I must say his loyal following & club committee really did get behind the club for this special function.

As most of the ACF members will be aware David Hooper was a founding member of the ACF from its inception in 1979, & was a life member of this organization. David served on the board for many years & contributed a lot in the early days of setting up the ACF.

Jeff Seidel

Michelle has asked me to ask callers if anyone would like to buy some of David's equipment. There is a Hilton turntable, yak stacks, & many, many records. At this point I am not sure of the model of the Hilton. I will be having a look at all the equipment later in February. Please let me know if you are interested in any of this.

Thanks Jeff Seidel

Ideas for Interesting Mainstream Part (1) Jeff Van Sambeek

As promised by our chairman in his report "I'll lead the way by making my contribution this month." We have the first part of an article from Jeff Van Sambeek

A number of these ideas have been circulating over the years. This is just my current collection. I hope you enjoy. But don't overdo it. Jeff

Bucket Stirs (This is where the set finishes one quarter from the starting position)

Heads Promenade 1/2

Lead to the Right

Circle to a Line

Pass the Ocean

Single Hinge

Scout Back

Original Side Couples Single Hinge

All do your part of a Recycle

Bow

Heads Promenade 1/2

Lead to the Right

Circle to a Line

Pass the Ocean

Single Hinge

Scout Back

Original Side Couples Single Hinge

All do your part of a Recycle

Bow

Miscellaneous

From a squared set:

- Ladies chain - Same ladies chain $\frac{3}{4}$ - Sides face Grand Square - 8 Steps - Left Allemande
- Four Ladies Chain - Four Ladies Fold - Touch $\frac{1}{4}$ - Men Star half way across - Grand Right and Left
- Couples 2,3,4 rollaway w/half sashay - Heads sq thru four - Make a wave - Swing thru
- Centers trade - ends circulate - Boys run, bend the line. - (Zero line)

Right & Left Thru Equivalents

From Facing Lines:

Pass the Ocean

Centers Trade

Swing Thru

Scout Back

Fan the Top !!!

Recycle

From zero box:

Right&Left Thru

Make a Wave

Girls Trade

Swing Thru

Boys Cross Run

Chain Down The Line

Slide Thru

Jeff Van Sambeek

“IF YOU WANT TO”
A novelty Choreography technique
Presented by Brian Hotchkies (Australia)

During the evolution of square dancing, many novelties and gimmicks have been dreamed up for callers to use. One of the most intriguing and enduring is the concept of “If You Want To”. Like most gimmicks, to remain interesting, this one needs to be used sparingly.

In symmetrical choreography, the caller gives commands that will maintain the *symmetry balance* of a set, and put dancers in a specific position. For example: If the caller was to call: “Heads Half Sashay”, all Head couples, in every set would do a “Half Sashay”, so every set would be the same. However, the “IYWT” concept allows dancers to make some of the decisions, and depending upon whether or not they decided to do the call, the symmetrical balance of the set may, or may not be maintained. At first glance, this appears to pose a crazy situation, and an interesting (if not impossible) problem for the caller.

For example: If the caller was to call “Heads - If You Want To, Half Sashay”. In some sets, both Head couples may decide to do the call, in other sets neither may do it, while in the remaining sets, one Head couple may do the call, while the other couple does not.

The end result of this *dancer decision* is, that those sets which did nothing, will remain symmetrical, and unchanged (all couples *normal*). Those sets where both Heads did the call will also be symmetrical, but will be different from those that did nothing. The sets in which only one Head couple did the call will now be asymmetrical (Sides & one Head couple normal, the other Head couple half sashayed).

Although this type of choreo may seem to be completely random, and create a major problem for the caller, he/she is only allowing dancers the option to execute a call, which will keep them in a predictable position. For example, in the above routine, everybody is still adjacent to original partner.

There are several different variations of this novelty. In the following discussion and examples, I will concentrate on that part of the IYWT concept which relies on the caller giving dancers the option to exchange places with a specific person in the set. Then after a sequence of calls, these dancers will be brought back together, and given a command that will restore symmetry.

Dancers are usually amazed at the caller’s ability to resolve all the sets, even though they have made some of the decisions. You can even turn this into a game with the dancers: “Okay, you have to follow my instructions now, but see if you can stop this thing from working out!”

The most frequently used IYWT, is that in which the caller allows dancers the option to exchange places with either their *Partner*, or their *Corner*. These exchanges can be made by calling: ½ Sashay, Box The Gnat, Zoom, Star Thru, Trade, etc. You can of course have other dancers exchange places, but with this gimmick you should never allow dancers of the same sex to make an exchange.

Once you have allowed dancers to execute an IYWT call, you then must be careful in your selection of choreography. Some sets almost certainly will have had a Man & Lady exchange position, so unless you are sure of yourself, you should avoid calls which name a sex: Boys Run, Girls Trade, etc., and don't use calls which are *sex oriented*: Star Thru, Box The Gnat, California Twirl, Slide Thru, etc.

Because of the random exchange of sexes in the sets, formations are not strictly controllable by the caller throughout these routines - especially during the resolve stage. As a result, some body flow may be compromised, but with thoughtful selection of choreo this can be minimised.

Following are a few simple modules that employ this technique:

(1) Everybody Fwd & Back, If You Want To ½ Sashay, Join Hands & Circle Left, Face your (original) Partner, Right & Left Grand, (some are pretty, some are not), Swing (Partner), Promenade

(2) Sides Lead Right, Circle To A Line, Fwd. & Back, If You Want To ½ Sashay, Pass Thru, Tag The Line, Leaders U-Turn Back, Swing, Promenade

(3) Heads ½ Sashay, Sides Star Thru, If You Want To Zoom, Centres Pass Thru, Square Thru ¾, Centres Pass Thru, The others U-Turn Back, Star Thru, Bend The Line, Square Thru ¾, L.A.

(4) Four Ladies Chain ¾, Heads ½ Square Thru, If You Want To Box The Gnat, Swing Thru, Centres Trade, Those Facing OUT Run, Everybody Pass Thru, Ends (or Centres) Fold, Swing, Promenade

These four are a little more complex:

(5) Any two opposite Couples Fwd & Back, Same four Pass Thru, Separate @1 to a Line, Fwd. & Back, Pass Thru, Wheel & Deal, If You Want To Zoom, Centres Spin The Top, The others Pass Thru & Partner Trade, Those in the O/W Single Hinge, Walk & Dodge, Star Thru, Bend The Line (CL), Pass Thru, Tag The Line, Leaders U-Turn Back, L.A.

(6) Any two opposite Couples go Fwd. & Back, If You Want To ½ Sashay, The other couples If You Want To ½ Sashay, Any two opposite Couples Fwd. & Back, Pass Thru, Separate @1 to a Line, Just the Centres, If You Want To Box The Gnat, then Back away to a Line, Bend The Line, Just the Centres, If You Want To Box The Gnat, then Back away to a Line, * Everybody Pass Thru, Centres turn your back to each other, Ends turn & face the nearest Centre, Pass Thru, Swing (original Partner), Promenade

(* or: Load The Boat, Pass Thru, Swing, Promenade)

(7) Heads If You Want To $\frac{1}{2}$ Sashay, Touch $\frac{1}{4}$, Walk & Dodge, Swing Thru, Those Facing out Run, Pass Thru, Wheel & Deal, If You Want To $\frac{1}{2}$ Sashay, If You Want To Partner Trade, Everybody Face your Partner If You Want To Box The Gnat, Back away to a Line, Everybody Pass Thru, Wheel & Deal, Centres Pass Thru, Swing (original Partner), Promenade

(8) Four Ladies Chain, Four Ladies Chain $\frac{3}{4}$, Heads Star Thru, Double Pass Thru, Centres In, All U-Turn Back, Pass Thru, Wheel & Deal, If You Want To Zoom, Centres Swing Thru, In the O/W, Centres Trade, Extend, Swing (original Partner), Promenade

Note: Without the two sets of Four Ladies Chain, routine #8 is a *Corner progression*.

WORKING THROUGH THE DIAMOND (Brian Brislane)

Brian put the following together for a recent club night and as he stated, “ I don’t think it’s an original concept in any way but the dancers enjoyed it.” Thanks Brian, it’s also nice to hear from you.

(1) Heads Pass the Ocean – Swing Thru – Boys Run – Girls Hinge – Sides (Through the Diamond) Pass Thru – and Chase Right – (In the Diamond) Diamond Circulate – Sides (Through the diamond) Walk and Dodge – Flip the diamond and recycle – Pass Thru – Centres In – Centres Fold – Star Thru – $\frac{1}{2}$ Tag – Check Waves and Swing Thru – All 8 Circulate – Boys Run – Load the Boat – Swing and Promenade

(2) From Zero Line – Pass the Ocean – Swing Thru – Boys Run – Couples Circulate – 4 Girls Box Circulate once and a half - 4 boys face in – Boys (Through the Diamond) Pass the Ocean – 4 Girls Flip the Diamond – Boys Hinge – Those facing Pass Thru – Centre 4 Wheel and Deal – Others Partner Trade – Centre 4 Wheel and Deal – Others Partner Trade – Centre 4 Wheel and Deal – Others Partner Trade – Centre 4 Single Circle to a Wave – Extend – Recycle – Pass to the Centre – Centre 4 Right and Left Thru and Start a Dixie Grand – Left Allemande

(3) Heads Square Thru 2 – Swing Thru – Boys Run – Couples Circulate – Girls Circulate $\frac{1}{2}$ more (Girls have a Diamond) – 4 Girls Diamond Circulate – Boys Face In – Boys (Through the Diamond) Pass Thru and Partner Trade and Roll – Girls Diamond Circulate – Boys Diamond Single Circle to a Mini Wave – Boys (Through the Diamond) Linear Cycle – 4 Girls Flip the Diamond – Extend – All the girls U-Turn back – (L1p) – Pass Ocean – Recycle – Veer Left – Crossfire – Girls Run – Grand Right and Left

(4) Sides Star Thru and Spread – Lines Pass Thru – Wheel and Deal – 4 Girls Swing Thru – Very Centre Girls Hinge – Girls Diamond Circulate – Boys (Through the Diamond) Square Thru 3 – 4 Girls Flip the Diamond and Recycle – Girls Pass Thru – Centres In Cast Off $\frac{3}{4}$ - Lines – Touch $\frac{1}{4}$ - All 8 Circulate – All the Girls U Turn Back – Centre 4 Pass Thru – Star Thru – Pass Ocean – Boys Run – Promenade

(5) Heads Right and Left Thru – Dixie Style to Wave – Centre Boys Cast Off $\frac{3}{4}$ - Centre 4 (Heads) Facing Diamond Circulate - All 8 Circulate – Others (Thru the Diamond) Diamond Touch $\frac{1}{4}$ and Spread Apart – Centre 4 (Heads) Cut Diamond – All (Facing) Diamond Circulate – All Cut Diamond - Centres Trade – All the Boys Run – Pass the Ocean – Ladies Trade – Recycle – Veer Left and Bend the Line – Right and Left Thru – Slide Thru – Single Circle $\frac{1}{2}$ to a Right and Left Grand

(6) Get out from L1p (Zero Line) – Right and Left Thru – Slide Thru – Single Circle $\frac{1}{2}$ to a Right and Left Grand

(7) Get out from B1c (Zero Box) – Swing Thru – Girls Circulate – Boys Run – Wheel and Deal - Single Circle $\frac{1}{2}$ to a Right and Left Grand

(PS – I haven't fully checked the above routines out yet – any errors are probably transcription errors. – Jeff)

MINILAB REPORT

Hi all. It is still not too late to register for Minilab. Bookings at Greenmount have been confirmed and those who have booked through the ACF should have received information on payment of deposits. If you haven't received this information, please contact either David Brown (dahbrown@bigpond.com) or myself (hcockbur@bigpond.net.au).

The program for the Minilab session should be completed shortly. The preliminary program suggests that this is an event not to miss after the Brisbane National. I know that it can be difficult for callers to get the time off work and even the financial cost can be overwhelming, but this is an event that has only occurred twice in the past 18 years, so don't miss out.

So we look forward to catching up with you all on the Gold Coast for Minilab 2008

Howard Cockburn
Minilab Co-Ordinator

RYHME TIME

Well here we are with the first Callerlink of double – oh – eight,
Who would have known I'd still be editor, It's hard to imagine,
A new year has started, And what have we've got in store?
Hopefully more dancers coming in through the entrance door
My computer threw a wobbling on the first day of the new year
But thanks to backups nothing was lost and I didn't shed a tear
I was looking at old photos from the 1970's when clubs were increasing
Dancers were younger and so were the callers, it all seemed never ending
But did we forget our forward planning back when the booms times existed?
Did we get so good at the science of dancing that our future became twisted?
I really don't know myself why the smiles are not as prevalent these days
But I am convinced that we are not completely lost in the haze
After all, the product we sell is intrinsically good
We just have to sell it to suit the neighbourhood
Maybe we need to advertise the healthy attributes of our activity
And the fact that it's not hard exercise, will surely appeal to people's sensitivity
Gives me hope to think that if that if we work together
Square dancing will naturally keep growing forever
It really only needs a small spark or a pebble dropped in a pond
Then if we nurture it with lots of smiles, it could improve way beyond
I look forward to dancing this year, and enjoying times we will all spend
And I'm sure that we will this year reverse the down-ward trend

QUIZ TIME:

These come from Brain Hotchkies and are actually titled as "Exercises for Callers" that he uses at his "Caller's Clinics". They are good exercises for any caller of any experience and will help sharpen your skills. We've already had two good sets of repsnses – but I'm sure we could get more? Come on – give it a try!

1) Using Mainstream calls, write three routines which will set-up standard, facing lines of four, all men in sequence, and with original partner, other than Heads (Sides) Lead Right, Circle to a Line (couple #1 may be located anywhere).
Often referred to as: "Zero Lines", "1P2P Lines" or "L1P Lines".

One of these routines should include "Spin The Top".

2) Using Mainstream calls, write three routines which will set-up a standard Eight Chain Thru box formation (from which the caller can call "Allemande Left and Promenade home").
Often referred to as a "Zero Box", "B14" or "B1C".

One of these routines should include "Box Circulate".

3) Using Mainstream calls, resolve the following (to any of the following: "Allemande Left", "Grand Right & Left" or "Promenade"), without calling "Right & Left Thru" as the next figure:

Heads Square Thru - Swing Thru - Spin The Top - ?

All routines should have good body flow, correct hand availability, and not be excessively long.

Callerlink is circulated every even numbered month. Articles for Callerlink are welcome and can be sent by:

- Post - typed or neatly handwritten to 1 Spinnaker Drive, Australind, WA 6233 – We don't have FAX
- E-mail – jefffracie3@westnet.com.au - in either WORD, PDF, Text or HTML but not PUBLISHER.
- Or submitted Through your ACF State Co-ordinator.

Please remember that articles from other publications are probably subject to copyright and we need to get permission to reproduce them. So if you find an article from somewhere else we need full details of the other organisation including who and how to contact them.

Closing date for articles is the 15th of each odd numbered month.

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The next exciting issue of CallerLink comes out in April 2008 !

**If you have material you would like to be considered for publication, please submit it to the Editor or your state rep by 15th of March 2008 at the latest.
State co-ordinators – get your reports to the Chairman.
It's your newsletter – and you can make a difference.**

Abbreviations and terminology used in Callerlink:

SS	Squared Set (or Static Square)
L1p	Zero Line (Heads Lead Right and Circle To A Line, historically named 1P2P)
B1c	Zero Box (Heads Square Thru, historically named BOX 1-4)
W1c	Zero Wave (Heads Square Thru and Make a Wave)
L1c	Corner Line (Heads Square Thru and Slide Thru with Sides)
B4c	Lead right box (Heads lead to the right and face the sides)
Normal	Dancers are arranged as normal couples. (Boy in left spot, girls in right spot)
½ Sashayed	Dancers are half-sashayed. (Girl in left spot, boys in right spot)
Mixed-sex	In a group of 4 dancers, 1 couple is normal, the other couple is ½ Sashayed
Same-sex	In a group of 4 dancers, there is one couple of boys and one couple of girls
TWC	Those who can

Squares 'round Australia

New South Wales

Happy New Year to all Callers and your partners.

It is still too early for most NSW Square Dance Clubs to be starting.

One exception is Greenwich Swingers Square Dance Club.

Late last year the committee came up with a new idea, they decided to use the month of January to run classes for the new dancers who joined in 2007.

The idea is to keep them dancing and get them to the point where they can graduate and join the Mainstream dancers. With the help of Angels we have been getting five Squares each week.

Andy Lown.
State Co-ordinator.

Queensland

The QCA welcomes all of our friends to a New Year and one that we believe will be full of fun and friendship, particularly with the National in Brisbane in June, followed by the Callerlab Mini-lab. During the recess of the festive season, all reports indicate that the well deserved rest was had by all with the opportunity to recharge batteries. The monsoonal wet weather that Queensland has experienced has been most welcome, and we hope that spirits have been lifted in drought recovery.

Our next QCA Quarterly Meeting is at Caloundra on 17 February, followed by the AGM and a Caller Training Session.

DAVID SMYTHE
STATE COORDINATOR

Victoria

Hi everyone, happy New Year. There really isn't a lot to report as we have not had a meeting since my last report. We are reviewing the way we do our meetings and workshops for 2008. In the past we have used a hall which has cost the VCA, we have decided due to lacking numbers that this year we will conduct our meetings in a member's home. This will make the meetings a little more intimate.

On a very sad note, one of our Life Member's and an ACF founding member David Hooper passed away prior to Christmas. As mentioned in my last report David was going through a tough time and sadly he lost his battle with cancer. On behalf of the VCA & ACF I would like to extend our condolences to David's family, friends and square dance supporters. I know David will be missed.

The Victorian State Convention will be held in Geelong during March. This will be a new venue for us and I am sure we will all have a great weekend. We have 13 callers programmed and we should be able to provide the dancers with some entertaining and challenging calling.

We remind all our callers, if they have not booked in for the Minilab in 2008, to do so soon.

Howard Cockburn
ACF Coordinator
Victoria

Tasmania

Hi from Tassie

Tassie has been in Square Dance recess over the Christmas period but all that is over now & by the time this goes to print, most clubs will be back in full swing. Hopefully the callers, cuers and dancers alike will be rested & refreshed, ready for a brand new year of both dancing and social events.

Re-elected President of the TCA Steve Weeks is keen to boost the profile of callers in Tasmania & has the full support of his committee and members to make this happen. With not only positive thinking but also positive action, we can make 2008 a great year.

Yours in squares,

Di Austen

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Happy New Year to all fellow Callers and Dancers. C.A.W.A would like to wish you every success both in family life and in the Square Dance world during 2008.

This time of year is the time to make new resolutions and a time to forget last years that somehow disappeared into thin air about half way through the year!

Here are 10 suggestions to start the year with some achievable resolutions.

- I will arrive early for the dance
- I will present a new song at least once per fortnight
- I will continue to smile and greet dancers
- I will make an effort to have quick chats to dancers
- I will teach a class this year.
- I will spend at least 2 hours a week studying choreography
- I will encourage dancers to attend other clubs
- I will invent one new get out per week
- I will hold open mike nights to encourage dancers to become callers
- I will not share licensed music with other callers.

Have fun, create fun and encourage fun
Steve Turner