

Australian Callers Federation



CallerLink

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Australian Callers' Federation

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ACF Chairman's Report.

Hi everybody.

This report can be regarded as my annual report that I will present at the meetings at the convention.

Several items of interest have appeared over the past twelve months that will no doubt attract your interest once the finer details have been worked out by the members of the Board.

Many callers are now stepping up their use of technology by utilising things like (digital) mini disc players, lap tops and memory sticks. Many callers still use the old vinyls. This of course leads to a dilemma of sorts when preparing for the sound at a large function. Does one make provision for every aspect of equipment in use or what? This question has been put to the members of the Board and will be discussed further at our next Board meeting in June. The Board's ultimate resolution, if any, will be just a recommendation that will be put forward to the National Board for consideration and adoption if they see fit to do so.

The other item of interest concerns the use of split level callers who currently may not qualify to be programmed for the higher program they may be calling at their club. Submissions have been made by two Board members in David Smythe and Margaret Betts. These recommendations have been discussed by the Board members and will be ratified at our next Board meeting also.

This has been a relatively quiet year for the Board, for a change. It goes without saying though that member participation has been most important in matters raised and I am glad to say has been very productive. For this I thank all the members and in particular those who may be leaving the Board this year. Thank you for your contribution.

It would be remiss of me if I did not thank Howard Cockburn and his Minilab committee for the hard work they put into organising this 3 day event following this year's convention. It was at times very difficult to assess whether it could become a goer or not. They persisted and their endeavour has paid off in what should be a very interesting Minilab conference. I hope you were able to make it. If not, I am sure the next issue of Callerlink will bring you up to date with the points of interest.

The tireless work of secretary Nev McLachlan must also be mentioned. His experience at this level is unsurpassed and deserves the greatest accolades from us all. It would be difficult to replace him. (Who wants to replace him?)

Perhaps a word of gratitude would be appropriate in thanking Jeff Garbutt for his efforts in producing our Callerlink every 2 months. He has been doing this forever it seems. Thanks Jeff. It seems you were born to the task.

Until the next issue, enjoy your hobby and "call" as if no one is watching.

Cheers
Jeff Van Sambeek
Chairman

Editor's Ramblings

Hi everyone. At the time of writing I really can't think of anything to say. And that's probably because I'm not sure whether to say "I hope you are looking forward to the National" – or "I hope you had you had a good time at the National". It could very well be that I will finish this issue just before we head off to catch our flight and it will be posted out soon after we get back.

Anyway, rest assured, I'm looking forward to this National and the Minilab immediately after. So I hope you are as well, and I hope to meet (or did meet if it has already happened) as many of you as possible.

Cheers
Jeff

FROM NSW NEWS AND NOTES

Those lucky callers in New South Wales Callers' now have their own newsletter called NSW News and Notes. It will be published four times a year by email. Barry has taken on this bold new initiative and I congratulate him and the NSW Association. Anyway – I have gained their permission to borrow the following from their first issue. After reading it I was inspired and quickly threw together a few ideas of my own - it was a refreshing change. Caution – make sure your dancers know which hand is the right hand and which is the left hand.

ONE LEFT HAND – ONE RIGHT HAND

Working with two waves...one Left Hand and one Right Hand, there is no reason why we cannot use this effectively within Mainstream. If we call a Swing Thru, then it is a Right Hand start for both wise, alternatively if we call a Left Swing Thru, then it is a Left Hand start for both waves. For the Right Hand wave the Swing Thru would be a regular one with the ends starting trading by the Right Hand with the centres and the centres then trading by the left Hand. For the Left Hand wave, the Swing Thru would begin with the centres Trading with the Right Hand and then turning halfway with the Left Hand with the ends.

This theme is quite a neat little idea and you can have lots of fun with it. The following examples are based on a couple of simple themes for resolving the resultant set-ups. By doing a little bit of work with the dolls I am sure you can come up with a whole lot of variations. The basic set-up used here is from a Zero Line at the Heads position (Sides Lead Right & Circle to a Line of 4).

**SIDES LEAD RIGHT, CIRCLE TO A LINE OF FOUR,
MEN FACING THE CALLER PASS THRU WITH THE GIRL THEY FACE,
ALL SWING THRU, CENTRES TRADE,
RECYCLE, PASS THRU, CENTRES PASS THRU
LEADS U TURN BACK, STAR THRU
LEADS CALIFORNIA TWIRL, RIGHT & LEFT THRU : ZERO LINE**

***ZERO LINE (at Heads Pos):* RIGHT & LEFT THRU,
LADIES FACING THE CALLER & MEN THEY FACE PASS THRU,
ALL SWING THRU, CENTRES TRADE,
RECYCLE, PASS THRU, CENTRES PASS THRU,
OUTSIDES TRADE, SWING, PROMENADE**

***ZERO LINE (at Heads Pos) :*
MEN FACING CALLER & GIRL THEY FACE PASS THRU,
ALL SWING THRU, CENTRES TRADE, RECYCLE,
PASS THRU, CENTRES PASS THRU,
OUTSIDES TRADE STAR THRU, LEADS TRADE,
PASS THRU, BEND THE LINE : *ZERO LINE***

With the above you can vary by having the girls who face the caller & man they face Pass Thru...this will not change anything.

Of course a natural expansion is to have one wave Swing Thru as the other one does a Left Swing Thru.

***ZERO LINE (at Heads Pos):*
MEN FACING CALLER & GIRL FACING PASS THRU,
MEN SWING THRU, LADIES LEFT SWING THRU,
ALL WHO FACE PASS THRU, ALL BEND THE LINE,
TOUCH ¼, SINGLE FILE CIRCULATE, MEN RUN
RIGHT & LEFT THRU: ZERO BOX**

***ZERO LINE (at heads Pos):*
MEN FACING CALLER & GIRL THEY FACE PASS THRU,
MEN SWING THRU, LADIES LEFT SWING THRU,
THOSE WHO FACE PASS THRU, ALL PARTNER TRADE,
LADIES WHO FACE CALLER & MAN THEY FACE PASS THRU,
MEN SWING THRU, LADIES LEFT SWING THRU,
THOSE WHO FACE PASS THRU, ALL PATNER TRADE: *ZERO LINE***

ZERO LINE (at Heads Pos):

**PASS THRU, TAG THE LINE...IN,
MEN WHO FACE CALLER & GIRL THEY FACE PASS THRU,
LADIES SWING THRU, MEN LEFT SWING THRU,
THOSE FACING PASS THRU, ALL LADIES FOLD,
TOUCH ¼, LADIES TRADE, MEN CIRCULATE, RECYCLE : *ZERO BOX***

ZERO BOX (at Sides Pos): SLIDE THRU,

**MEN FACING CALLER & GIRL THEY FACE PASS THRU, ALL LEFT SWING THRU,
THOSE WHO FACE PASS THRU, ENDS CROSS FOLD,
CENTRES FACE & SLIDE THRU : *ZERO BOX***

ZERO BOX (at Sides Pos): SLIDE THRU,

**MEN FACING CALLER & LADY THEY FACE PASS THRU,
MEN SWING THRU, LADIES LEFT SWING THRU,
THOSE WHO FACE PASS THRU, ENDS CROSS FOLD : *ZERO BOX***

Of course the varieties with this concept are really only limited by the imagination. You can have one wave executing a different set of commands to the other, you can convert L to R and vice versa...a whole heap of creative choreography is available with just this one simple concept.

**“Music and it’s Tempo”
WESTERN AUSTRALIA REPORT JUNE 2008
(Steve Turner)**

We thought we would share with you material from the latest mini seminar we held at our last general callers meeting,

The theme was “Music and it’s Tempo”

Music is one of our greatest assets and an essential part of the Callers presentation. There is a variety of music available and with the correct choice of tunes, we are able to create the right atmosphere and mood for every occasion.

COMMON TYPES OF RHYTHM (known as the beat)

2/4 Time, The first beat receives a heavier accent than the second. Described as 1 and 2 and 1 and 2

4/4 Time, The first beat out 4 receives the heavy beat. Described as ONE 2,3,4, ONE 2,3,4,

6/8 Time, Jigs are played in 6/8. Described as Rat-a-tat, Rat-a-tat

TEMPO

Tempo identifies the speed in which the tune is being played at. Measured by the number of beats per minute. (Metronome beats per minute (MBM)

The most comfortable tempo for Dancers is between 126 and 128 beats per minute

Practice counting the beats of music in any given 60 seconds by using a watch or easier still, buy yourself a Digital Metronome. At random, test a variety of records you use on a regular basis by playing them at the speed you are comfortable with and make note of the MBM. You may find you will need to make adjustments to your presentation.

1. MATCH THEIR STEPS TO THE BEAT OF THE MUSIC

COMMAND TIME - LEAD TIME - EXECUTION TIME

COMMAND;-

Is the amount of time it takes to deliver the command (movement).

Generally, this should be done within 2 beats Practice calling the commands to any piece of music without concentrating on the choreography

LEAD TIME;-

Is the amount of time you allow before dancers execute the command. Generally, this should also be between 2 to 4 beats with 2 beats being the norm. Some movements take more than 2 beats, SIDES FACE GRAND SQUARE. SPIN CHAIN THRU. SPIN CHAIN AND EXCHANGE THE GEARS.

EXECUTION;-

Is the amount of time it takes to dance the command comfortably (number of steps)

2. MATCH THEIR BODY MOVEMENTS TO THE RHYTHM OF THE MUSIC.

When callers say “ALLEMANDE LEFT WITH THE OLD LEFT HAND”, they correctly Match the 4 beat feel of the words with the 4 beat phrase of the music. But if they say “Allemande left with the pretty little corner girl” they are seeking to cram a 5 beat word package into a 4 beat musical package.

The result would be painful to all who hear it and quite awkward to dance to.

Play a great up tempo number and tell the dancers to “DANCE THE BEAT”

And watch the dancers body movements. They love dancing to the beat.

3. MATCH AS MANY CALLS AS POSSIBLE TO THE PHRASE OF THE MUSIC.

There are two ways for callers to interact with the 8 beat phrase of the music.

The caller can start the words of the call on the first count of the phrase or the words of the call may be given on the final counts of a phrase which will allow the dancer to start the action on the first count of the phrase.

Never slow down the tempo (MBM) of a record. If you do so when working with newer dancers, this will condition them to expect slower rhythm. Instead, increase the amount of reaction time, but be aware to allow the correct time to execute the commands.

Similarly, avoid the temptation to speed up the MBM's, it is worth noting that a caller can make it feel faster by using fill in words or “patter chatter” to create the elusion of a faster tempo without any adjustment to the speed.

COORDINATE by Steve Turner

You can open up the world of COORDINATE when looking at Right and Left hand columns and also interrupting the completion of a COORDINATE, with some directional calling, to create other arrangements. Great material for workshops.

SQUARED SET

L.A. – ALLAMO STYLE – HEAD GIRLS RUN RIGHT – HDS UP & BACK
TOUCH ¼ - COORDINATE – COUPLES CIRCULTA ½ - BEND LINE
You're home

SQUARED SET

HDS DOSADO – SDS FACE & ALL GRAND SWING THRU
HINGE – COORDINATE – COUPLES CIRCULE – GIRLS RUN LEFT – L.A.
You're home

ZL (Heads lead right - circle to a line)

TOUCH ¼ - COORDINATE and the girls ROLL
Girls make a wave - CENTRE GIRLS TRADE
FLIP DIAMOND – GRAND R&L

ZL (Heads lead right - circle to a line)

R&L THRU – ½ SASHAY – TOUCH ¼ - COORDINATE (girls move up)
BOYS RUN LEFT - GIRLS TRADE – LEFT SWING THRU – L.A.
You're home

B2R (Hds Star Thru- Pass Thru)

SLIDE THRU – R&L THRU – LEFT TOUCH ¼ - COORDINATE –
PROMENADE A FEW STEPS –
You're home

ZB (zero box)

SLIDE THRU – R&L THRU – LEFT TOUCH ¼ -
COORDINATE – FERRIS WHEEL & CENTRES SWEEP ¼
You're home

ZL (Heads lead right - circle to a line)

TOUCH ¼ - COORDINATE – CROSSFIE – COORDINATE –
BEND LINE & ROLL (left handed column) COORDINATE -
BEND LINE & ROLL – COORDINATE
COUPLES CIRCULATE ½ - BEND LINE
You're home

B2R (Hds Star Thru- Pass Thru)

SLIDE THRU – R&L THRU – LEFT TOUCH ¼ -
COORDINATE – CAL TWIRL – CROSSFIRE – COORDINATE – BOYS FOLD – PASS
THRU – BOW TO YOUR PARTNER
You're home

ZL (Heads lead right - circle to a line)

TOUCH $\frac{1}{4}$ - COORDINATE center boys are Trading but
DON'T MOVE UP – find the column of 6 – CIRCULATE
Outside boy extend TWO spots – center 2 girls TRADE
Same girls, there is a man in front of you, tap him on the shoulder and tell him to RUN
RIGHT and you take his place
COUPLES CIRCULATE – $\frac{1}{2}$ TAG – HINGE – GRAND R&L

ZL (Heads lead right - circle to a line)

TOUCH $\frac{1}{4}$ - COORDINATE center boys don't move up
HINGE instead – the other boy EXTEND to a boys diamond
BOYS DIAMOND CIRCULATE TWICE
Outer 6 dancers CIRCULATE – center diamond CIRCULATE
Every boy RUN and all PROMENADE home

COORDINATE TO A DIAMOND

This is stretching the starting formation and definition slightly but dancers cope with this variation in a workshop situation. Note that the 3 pairs trading are similar to a “normal” Coordinate, 2 pairs of ladies and one pair of men

SET UP - From a Zero Line

CENTRE 4 PASS THRU – CENTRE LADY RUN RIGHT
OR
CENTRE LADY WALK – CENTRE BOY DODGE – SAME ONES TRADE
Now from one of those set ups above, let's continue
COORDINATE
Outsides circulate once & half and find RIGHTS in a mini wave
Centres circulate once & half, girls & center boys connect
3 pairs trade & boys move up to a diamond
FACING DIAMOND CIRCULATE
VERY CENTRE BOYS TRADE – FLIP DIAMOND –
COUPLES CIRCULATE $\frac{1}{2}$ - BEND THE LINE –
You're home

PRACTICE, PRACTICE WITH YOUR TABLE TOP DANCERS BEFORE TRYING IT
ON REAL LIVE DANCERS. ENJOY

Ideas for Interesting Mainstream Part (3) Jeff Van Sambeeck

Continuing on from previous issues.

Head Ladies Chain 3/4
Side Boy Roll that Lady with a 1/2 Sashay
Lines of 3 Touch 1/4
Extend (possibly questionable usage)
Column Circulate
Boys Run
AL

Zero box (Box 1-4):
Spin Chain Thru
Girls Circulate 1 & 1/2
Boys do Half A Walk and Dodge
RLG

or a singing call:
All 4 Ladies Chain 3/4
Heads Square Thru 4
Spin Chain Thru
Girls Circulate 1 & 1/2
Boys do Half A Walk and Dodge
Swing your corner

Anytime you are going to call a rlg from a wave:
(Tell the dancers before you call this that there are baseball players in the square.)
All 8 Circulate
Walk and Dodge
(here come the team players)
Dodgers Trade
RLG

From Corner Line (Heads Square Thru - Star Thru)
Pass Thru
Tag the Line Right
Couples Circulate
Couples Circulate
Allemande Left (Home?)

From Zero Box:
Right and Left Thru
Veer Left
Ferris Wheel
Only the Boys Veer Left
Extend
Allemande Left

Heads Slide Thru
Square Thru 3
See Saw
Step To Left Hand Wave
Scoot Back
Chain Down the Line
Pass The Ocean
Recycle
Allemande Left

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.

Recent Callerlinks are available at: <http://members.westnet.com.au/jefffracie/callerlinks.html>

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FOR SALE: Various equipment including Hilton 100, Minidisk unit, Microphones and other accessories. Contact Tony & Yvonne Alessi 87 The Ruins way Port Macquarie NSW 2444 Phone/Fax (02) 65813556 ...email talessi@tsn.cc

The next exciting issue of CallerLink comes out in June/July 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 May 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

South Australia

We have ahs our AGM & there are no changes to the office bearers.

President: Graham Elliott

Sec/Treasurer: Les Tulloch

Education & State Coordinator: Jeff Seidel

Our constitution has now been revamped to accommodate our shrinking numbers of members, & our current situation. Wishing you all a safe journey to Qld for the National Convention. Looking forward to catching up with most of you.

Regards

Jeff Seidel

Queensland

Life is great in the Sunshine State and we are looking forward to hosting the National Convention at Chandler in Brisbane followed by the Callerlab Mini-lab at the Gold Coast. Both of these are must attend events for callers. The Square Dancing Society of Qld In., and the Queensland Callers Association are combining on Saturday, twelfth of October, to present the Gala Dance incorporating the Amateur Caller Contest in the afternoon, and the Sunshine State Round Up in the evening. Coming up Caller Training Sessions are being conducted by the QCA through the State with sessions in Maryborough (Wide Bay Area), Cardwell in North Qld and Logan (South of Brisbane) on the calendar.

Tasmania

Hi From Tassie

Congratulations !!

Graeme Whiteley's Tassie Twirlers and Kae Jenson's Northwest Coasters clubs have celebrated another year with birthday dances since the last edition of Callerlink. Please note in your diaries that coming up in May next year the Tassie Twirlers will turn **50** and the club will be holding a special weekend dance with a BBQ & festivities. Everyone is welcome to join Graeme and his club members. Same caller, same venue for 50 years – a real mile-stone.

Gearing up for National & then for MiniLab.

Half of the state's callers will be attending both the National and MiniLab. Looking over the MiniLab program, there will be lots of new information coming back to the state's callers and in turn, our dancers, at a special TCA meeting later in the year.

Thinking about a holiday in Tassie?

The dates for the next Tasmanian State Convention will most likely be on the 27th, 28th & 29th of March 2009 and will be held in the Launceston area. Any interstate callers, cuers, prompters and dancers looking to come visit our island state would be made most welcome. More information about the venue and theme will be announced soon.

See you in Brisbane

Di Austen