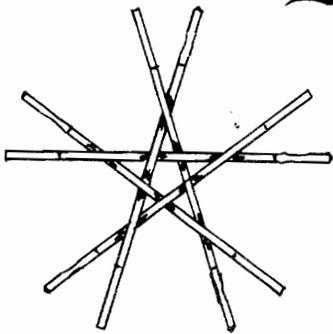


BOSTON CENTRE NEWSLETTER



The Country Dance Society, Boston Centre, Inc.
309 Washington Street
Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts 02181

Telephone (617) 235-6181

February, 1982
Vol. VI, No. 3
Editor: Sally Rusher
Asst. Editor: Roger Davidson

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all members and all readers of the Boston Centre Newsletter.

1982 has now begun, and many projects either already underway or planned are about to manifest in the months ahead. Details about these dances, workshops and parties are within these pages, and I urge you to share them with friends and relatives - and to help draw new members into the fold.

Meanwhile, I would like to say a few words about how the Boston Centre is run, both as a reminder and as a commentary. As you know, we have a board of directors, very ably assisted by many other key volunteers and by an office secretary. However, because virtually all work is done by volunteers, it is essential to have enough people to call upon so that what little time one has to give can be used most effectively - both in terms of individual efficiency and of getting the job as a whole done through effective cooperation. Therefore I urge you to let us know, either on your membership form or otherwise, what your particular abilities are - including general help - so that we can be more efficient at being able to call upon potential volunteers. Many of you have already done this, but there are many more to go.

Regardless of whether you volunteer as a leader or as a follower, there is always a way to have you working to match the amount of time and energy you may have for a given job. Every volunteer should carry his or her own true weight in responsibility (plus a little more!).

Have a great and inspiring year!

-Roger Davidson -/-

PLAYFORD BALL - MARCH 13

On Saturday, March 13, 1982, George Fogg will host the Second Annual Playford Ball at Knight Auditorium, Babson College, Wellesley Avenue, Wellesley, Ma. The Social Hour will be held from 7-8 p.m. and the dancing commences at 8 o'clock. Prior to the dance, a Review Workshop will be held from 3-5 p.m. The music will be by Bare Necessities, and refreshments will be served. You are encouraged to wear formal or period dress.

Attendance at the Playford Ball is by advance reservation only, for space is limited. Your reservation, with \$10 per person, must be received by March 5, 1982 to assure you of a place. Last year this dance was a tremendous success.

Please send your reservation, check, and a business size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mary V. Blomberg, 15 Holland Street, Needham, Ma. 02192. Please also let Mary know if hospitality is desired.



EDITOR'S CORNER

In the last newsletter, we printed part of an open letter to Traditional Dance Callers from Tony Parkes and invited your response. Not only did we get response from our readers, but also from Tony.

Tony did not know the letter had been sent to us by several different people and was not aware that we planned to print it. He has since sent us a revised letter explaining the straight-arm or "bull-by-the-tail" swing. On this page, we are reprinting part of the revised letter and two of the responses which we have received.

C.D.S.-Boston Centre welcomes letters on any issue which interests you. We have been trying to put together a historical newsletter and would like to hear any remembrances you might have of dances in the Boston area or summers at Pinewoods.

We wish to thank all the people who have contributed to this newsletter.

Please note the announcement about address changes. If this newsletter has not been mailed to your correct address, we probably need to hear from you. Please fill out the form at the end of the newsletter and mail it to Mary Blomberg, c/o C.D.S.-Boston, 309 Washington St., Wellesley Hills, MA 02181.

There will be one more newsletter this year (i.e. before summer). It must go out in April, so if you have material which you desire to be printed, please send it to me in March. Thanks.

-Sally Rusher



AN OPEN LETTER TO TRADITIONAL DANCE CALLERS (and other interested people)

The following is an excerpt from a letter written October 16, 1981.

I recently called a dance for a group that meets regularly--the name and place are not important here. During the evening, I noticed several people using the straight-arm or "bull-by-the-tail" swing. (This is the position in which each dancer's right hand is on the other's right shoulder, with left hands joined underneath.) Each time I saw it, I asked them not to do it, as is my custom of long standing. I was careful to mention that I was objecting to the swing because it can lead to serious injury, for dancers and onlookers alike (couples can fly apart unexpectedly because there is very little holding them together). One couple kept ignoring me, and I finally lost my temper (which I admit was a mistake, brought on by fatigue) and ordered them off the floor.

Several people objected strenuously to this. They said they had hired me to call an evening of dancing, and not to set policy or to interfere with the dancers' right to interpret my calls as they saw fit. I stuck to my guns, and one or two people said they'd never dance to my calling again.

The objections, of course, were at least as much to my tone as to my point of view. I couldn't agree more--I was out of line. A caller has the responsibility to make everyone in the hall feel good about being there, and losing one's temper makes no one feel good. But with all due apologies for my tone, my viewpoint still stands. A caller also has the responsibility for the safety of everyone in the hall--at least while they're dancing--and I believe with many other callers that the straight-arm swing is a threat to that safety.

There are two issues here that I feel are felevant to the dance world. One is what constitutes inconsiderate or unsafe behavior at a dance; the other is whether a caller has the right to set and enforce any rules regarding such behavior....

-Tony Parkes

RESPONSES TO TONY PARKES LETTER

21 November, 1981

I certainly agree with Tony that it is the right and responsibility of the caller to set standards of behavior on the dance floor. What surprises me is that there should be any argument about this. You end the article on p. 3 by asking for "possible responses to the problem." What response can there be besides trusting that Tony and the other excellent callers working in our area know what they're doing and have the best interests of the dancers at heart? They should be supported on the rare occasion when it may be necessary to limit someone's activities for the good of all.

Muffet Gracey
GDS Member

Response by Freida Gratzon, Moorestown, N.J.

As a dancer

I started serious country dancing in New England a decade ago, when fine teaching, top notch styling and a taste of wonderful fraternal spirit were my experiences. Those times are still giving me glowing and happy memories.

Much of what I do in dancing and teaching today was absorbed from my past New England dance adventures. Proudly I can say that there were some spectacular teachers who are my rold models. I am thankful for all my New England dancing buddies and friends. We all are still an integral part of each others community dancing lives.

As a victim

It was also at a recent New England dance affair (Pinewoods to be exact) where I became victimized on the dance floor. A set of broken toes and a chipped metatarsal (right foot) due to the neighboring couple #2. The man was dancing with a beautiful woman. So happy was he that he was exploiting an enthusiastic macho style in hiking shoes, no less. One of his happy feet found itself in our 'swinging' territory.

Now when Frieda Gratzon dances a swing with Arthur Cornelious, you all know in your mid-gut feelings that that accident could not be our fault.

Since that time, whenever I dance in N.E. (and it has been rare, lately), I have had to learn and practice a new dance art/science we call 'defensive dancing'. Now really--DEFENSIVE DANCING? Moreover, in teaching, I have been making 'supportive' dancing my constant theme and definitive accent.

In vintage years, I wish to enjoy the best continuous dance adventures. Therefore I eschew affairs where the dancing is "Frontier, Offal Kicking Style." Sorry folks, my legs, as old as they are, are still mighty precious to Frieda. Marvelous dancing for a long period of time is my objective.

Co-incidentally, has anyone noticed that with the current rise of 'Frontier Style' contra dancing (oddly enough emanating from the New Frontier, New England) that dress style and cleanliness at dance affairs are equal to that kind of ambience?

Yes, Tony Parkes, I fervantly support your stand! Callers are responsible for the atmosphere at a dance to some major degree. Their efforts (program, music, presentation) are what dancers come to enjoy. Community dancing is and should continue to be a supportive recreation. We do need teamplay for contras, squares, and triplets.

Moreover, community dance is a totally glorious, EXTENDED family enjoyment. People of all ages and all kinds of conjugal arrangements participate in this recreation, without prejudices, with ease and without tensions.

Policing the floor for objectionable behavior should really be the province of floormangers or a committee. Lacking such organizational foresight, then the callers should make a stand for order.

Tony, your revolutionary action on a subject which has long been discussed among professionals' inner circles is truly admirable. I thank you for the courage you showed in bringing it out in the open. It will be very interesting to hear from others about your forthright stand.

Frieda Gratzon

Thank you, both Frieda and Muffet, for taking the time to write.

-ED

C.D.S. CALENDAR

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays - Squares and Contras:

Tony Parkes and Yankee Ingenuity,
Concord Scout House (Walden St.,
Concord Center), 8:00 p.m.;
For further info call 275-1879

Scottish Country Dance, RSCDS,
Cambridge, 7 Temple St.
(Central Square), 8:15 p.m.
Call 862-7144

English Country Dance, Union
Congregational Church, South
Weymouth. 8:00 p.m. George Fogg,
Leader. Info: J. Ray, 335-0818.
Call for dates of sessions.

Tuesdays - Squares and Contras:

Country Dance Society, Brimmer
and May School gym, Middlesex
Road near Hammond St., Chestnut
Hill (near Chestnut Hill T stop,
Riverside Green Line), 7:45 in-
struction, 8:15 dance begins;
For further info call C.D.S.
235-6181

Advanced Balkan Dance - MIT
Student Center, Mass. Ave.,
Cambridge. 7:30 p.m. Instructions
& Requests. MIT Folk Dance Club,
964-7109

Wednesdays - English Country Dance:

Country Dance Society, Cambridge
7 Temple St. (Central Square),
8:15 p.m.; C.D.S. Office 235-6181.
Also instruction in Morris and Sword
dances, 8:00 p.m.

Framingham International Folk Dancers
Folk dancing and contras, instruction
& requests. Hemenway School, Water St.,
Framingham, 8:00 p.m. Lee Mason 877-0151

Israeli Dance - MIT Student Center,
Mass. Ave., Cambridge. 7:30 p.m.
MIT Folk Dance Club, 964-7109

Thursdays- Squares and Contras:

Tod Whittemore and friends,
Cambridge V.F.W. Hall, 8:00 p.m.
For info call 491-7727

Thursdays- Experienced International
Folk Dance - First Baptist Church,
5 Magazine St., Central Square.,
Cambridge. 8:15 p.m. Conny &
Marianne Taylor, leaders. Folk
Arts Center 862-7144

Fridays- Basic folk dancing
(International) with the Taylors,
Brimmer and May School gym, 8:00 p.m.
call for more info: 862-7144

2nd Fridays - Squares and Contras
with Cindy Green calling, First
Unitarian Church, 90 Main Street,
Worcester, Music by "Union Reel,"
8:30 p.m., \$3.00 donation at door.
Call 799-4671

3rd Fridays - Country Dancing with
Roaring Jelly, Andy Woolf, Music
Director. Lincoln Town Hall, 8-
11 p.m., only \$2.00! For further
info call: 369-1621

Saturdays- 1st Saturdays - Contra
Dance, Susan Elberger, calling.
Harvard Town Hall, Harvard, Mass.
8:30 p.m. Potluck dinner at 6:00
Fellowship Hall. For further info
call: 456-3539

2nd Saturdays - New England Squares &
Contras - Concord Scout House, Walden
St., Concord. 8:30 p.m. Live music.
Ted Sanella, caller, 235-4437

2nd Saturdays - Contras & Squares
with Jacob Bloom at Hill House,
74 Joy St., Peacon Hill, Boston.
8:00 p.m., Beginners welcome. \$3.00.
For information call 776-7579.

3rd Saturdays - New England Squares &
Contras - Concord Scout House, Walden
St., Concord. 8:30 p.m. Music by
Yankee Ingenuity; caller, Tony Parkes,
275-1879

Sundays - 1st Sundays - Challenging
Squares & Contras - Scout House,
Concord. 8:00 p.m. Experienced
Dancers only. Yankee Ingenuity,
275-1879.

Tuesdays - 2nd & 4th - Providence, R.I.
English Country Dancing with
Mitch Robbins. Roundtop Church,
300 Weybowet St., Providence, R.I.
8 p.m. Info Heidi Smith 401-274-9336



SOME COMING ATTRACTIONS::

FEBRUARY 20 (Saturday) 8:30 p.m.
Special Square & Contra Dance with Tony Parkes calling to music by Flying Fish recording artists Fiddle Feber, featuring a fiddle trio of Jay Ungar, Matt Glaser & Evan Stover, with Russ Barenberg and Molly Mason on rhythm. Concord Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord, MA. All dances taught, free refreshments, singles and beginners welcome. Soft soled shoes. Adm. \$4, info 275-1879

FEBRUARY 21 (Sunday) NEFFA CONTRAS
Two Penny Loaf - Concord Scout House, Concord - 7:15 p.m. Call 235-6181

FEBRUARY 22 (Monday) 8 p.m.: Square & Contra dance with Tony Parkes calling to Yankee Ingenuity. Concord Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord, MA. Singles & beginners welcome, all dances taught, free refreshments. Soft soled shoes. Adm. \$3, info 275-1879.

FEBRUARY 27 (Saturday) FAC WORKSHOP & PARTY - Steve Kotansky - Brimmer & May Gym - 10:00 and 2:00, workshops. Party at 8:00 p.m. Call 491-6084.

FEBRUARY 27 (Saturday) CONCERT BY GEORGE WARD - 8:30 p.m. - University Lutheran Church, 66 Winthrop Street, Cambridge, MA. - FSSGB Adm. \$5

FEBRUARY 28 (Sunday) FAC FAMILY DANCE - Mason & Rice School, Newton Centre, 2-4 p.m., Newton Recreation Dep't. 552-7120

MARCH 1 (Monday) 8 p.m.: Square & Contra Dance with Tony Parkes calling to Yankee Ingenuity. See Feb. 22.

MARCH 7 (Sunday) 8 p.m.: For more experienced dancers, an evening of squares & contras sponsored by Tony Parkes & Donna Hinds. Concord Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord, MA. Singles welcome, free refreshments. Soft soled shoes. Adm. \$3.50, info 275-1879.

MARCH 8 (Monday) 8 p.m.: Square & Contra Dance with Tony Parkes calling to Yankee Ingenuity. Concord Scout House. See Feb. 22.

MARCH 12, 13, & 14 (Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday) SING INTO SPRING - Tufts University, Medford, MA. for info 731-5674.

MARCH 13 (Saturday) PLAYFORD BALL - Knight Auditorium, Babson College, Wellesley Avenue, Wellesley Hills, MA. - Social Hour 7 p.m. - Ball 8 p.m. - Formal or Period Dress Requested - Attendance by advance reservation only. Call CDS office, 617-235-6181, or George Fogg, 617-426-1048.

MARCH 15 (Monday) 8 p.m.: Square & Contra Dance with Tony Parkes calling to Yankee Ingenuity. Concord Scout House. See info listed Feb. 22.

MARCH 20 (Saturday) 8:30 p.m.: Special Square & Contra Dance with Tony Parkes calling to music by the New England Tradition (Bob McQuillen, April Limber, Peter Colby) and Yankee Ingenuity. An evening of quintessential New England music and dance for everyone. Concord Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord, MA. Singles and beginners welcome, all dances taught, free refreshments. Soft soled shoes. Adm. \$3, info: 275-1879

LOOK FOR NEWS OF THE COMPOSERS' DANCE MARCH 27 AT THE GIRL SCOUT HOUSE, CONCORD ON PAGE 6.

ALSO NOTE THE NEW SERIES OF ENGLISH DANCES FOR EXPERIENCED DANCERS BEGINNING ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN BROOKLINE - ALSO ON p. 6.

Ed. note:

In the previous issue, the article on Irvin Davis stated that he received Life Membership in CDS in May, 1980. In fact, it was May, 1981. Apologies for the error. -Ed.

ENGLISH DANCE NEWS

Beginning March 5, we will be sponsoring a series of dances for experienced English dancers. This dance is designed for people who are comfortable with English Country Dancing, none of the basic figures will be taught.

This dance will provide a place to do some of the dances that are too difficult for the regular Wednesday night dances. We plan on teaching three difficult dances a night. The rest of the evening will consist of dances with only quick walk-throughs.

Helene Cornelius and Brad Saylor will be organizing the dances, with Jackie Schwab providing the music. The dances will be held on the first Friday of the month at the Church of Our Savior in Brookline. See the separate flyer for more details.

-Rich Jackson

C.D.S. FOOD BOOTH AT NEFFA

Once again C.D.S. will be sponsoring the English Food Booth at the NEFFA Festival, April 23, 24, 25, in the Natick H.S. Dea Marvin and Janet Hyman will be co-chairing the booth and welcome volunteers for working and food donations. More information will be available at Tuesday and Wednesday night dances, or call Dea (486-4469) or Janet (646-4147).

COMPOSERS' DANCE-March 27

The fifth annual New England Composers' Dance will take place on March 27, 1982 at the Girl Scout House in Concord.

We are looking for compositions in the traditional style (jigs, reels, marches, waltzes) by New England composers for the 5th Annual N.E. Composers' Dance. These should be sent to:

Mary Lea
1 Arlington Street
Somerville, MA 02145

or call 776-4208

HUDSON BARN REMINDER:

Remember that Hudson Barn, a collection of several tunes and dances composed by members of the Boston Centre, is on sale through the CDS office or at the English dances on Wednesdays. The price is \$2.50, plus 45¢ postage if ordered by mail.



MAY DAY

May 1: 1982; Boston Centre Celebration to benefit Pinwoods Camp and the Boston Centre. Complete with a Morris Ritual, featuring May Day/May Pole related dancing on the banks of the Charles, as well as Morris Dancing by many teams.

Followed by a Midday Frolic: from noon to 5:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church: recreational dancing for all, American and English, upstairs while a Bazaar occurs down including demos, singing, movies, T-shirts, records, books, and much much more.

Capped by an Evening Celebration from 8-11 p.m. at the Brimmer & May School: a dance featuring the best of the Boston Centre: our renowned callers and musicians will put on a dance featuring American and English dances and music written, composed, or made famous (or infamous) by Boston Centre members, as well as a generous selection of old favorites. Gala world premier of new dances or music are anticipated. Come one, come all to the Boston Centre Celebration: May Day, 1982.

-John Kryzwicki



OUTREACH PROGRAM

On October 17, a group of people from the Boston Centre traveled to Brunswick, Me., for an English Country Dance. Led by George Fogg, with music by Jackie Schwab and Earl Gaddis, the new dance series was a great success. Twenty-nine people attended the workshop, pot luck supper, and evening party. More such dances were held in November and December, and continue successfully into 1982. For more information, pick up a flyer at a Tuesday or Wednesday dance.

The Boston Centre is also sponsoring English dances in Providence, R.I. and will continue to do so throughout the season, by providing the leader and the music for one dance per month. Additional information is available on flyers at Tuesday and Wednesday C.D.S. dances.



BOLLES MEMORIAL FUND AWARDS - BOSTON CTR.

The trustees of the Bolles Memorial Fund are pleased to announce that money is available for partial or full scholarships to attend the 1982 summer programs at Pinwoods Camp, Plymouth, Mass. The fund was established in 1941 in memory of Dorothy Bolles, a dedicated teacher and long time member of the Boston Centre. These awards are aimed at assisting potential dance and music leaders desiring to enlarge their knowledge and experience. Pinwoods Camp offers a unique opportunity for participation and workshops in all forms of English and American traditional dance and music (instrumental and vocal).

In 1980 the following week-long programs were offered: Early Music, English Dance, Folk Music, English and American Dance, Family Week, and American Dance and Music. The 1982 program is expected to be similar.

To apply for an award please write a brief letter describing experience and specific program interest. Applicants are not limited to the Boston or N.E. area. We also welcome sponsorship of promising candidates by C.D.S. members. Send application letters to The Bolles Fund, Country Dance Society, Boston Centre, 309 Washington St., Wellesley Hills, Ma. 02181. The deadline is April 15, 1982. For further information write or call the CDS Boston Centre Office. (617) 235-6181 Mon. and Thurs. 9 - 4 p.m.





CDS-Boston
 309 Washington Street
 Wellesley Hills, MA 02181

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Phone: 235-6181

TIME VALUE
 DO NOT DELAY !

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!

If you have moved and have not yet notified us, or if the address on the label is incorrect, please fill in the following form and send it to the CDS office. Thank you.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

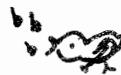
street

city or town _____

zip code _____

TELEPHONE (optional) _____

*L. McGeehan
 021 6720*



SING INTO SPRING



Winter won't last forever!
 Get ready to Sing into Spring!!
 On Friday night, March 12, The Folk Song Society of Greater Boston will begin this festival with a Contra & Square Dance and a Song Swap at 8:15. Saturday & Sunday, March 13 & 14 will feature workshops on ballads, women's songs, dulcimer, blues jam, children's songs and gospel songs. Saturday night will be a Coffee House from 7:30-10:30. Advance tickets are available by mail with stamped, self-addressed envelope by writing to Mark Katz, 96 Sutherland Rd., Apt. 6, Brighton, Ma. 02146 (731-5674). Please make checks payable to FSSGB/SIS Committee. Dance/Song Swap \$2.50, Either Day \$4.00, Coffee House \$2.50, Entire Weekend \$9.00. Children Free!