

REGIONAL CALLERS' ASSEMBLIES (R.C.A.s) CHARTER

INTRODUCTION AND PREAMBLE

The purpose of this document is to provide a working instrument upon which to base the formation of Regional Callers' Assemblies (R.C.A.s).

The first objective of this Charter is to provide a set of guidelines for the formation of R.C.A.s which will be deemed to operate entirely within the Constitution of S.D.C.C.G.B. and shall not show favour or disfavour to any individual by the virtue that all the activities of each R.C.A. will be announced prior to their occurrence and reported on subsequently in the "News & Views" magazine.

The primary objective of THE R.C.A.s is to enlarge the membership of S.D.C.C.G.B. such that its membership shall consist of all those persons who wish to belong to a National Association of Callers and Teachers of American Square Dancing. The Council anticipates that situation by creating the provision whereby official regional meetings of S.D.C.C.G.B. (R.C.A.s) may occur.

In conclusion therefore, these are the regulations as they are at present; they are binding upon the membership, only as long as the membership wish them to be. As with any democratically based organisation, the Square Dance Callers Club of Great Britain retains the right to operate these conditions for as long as it suits the best interests of the members.

The Council - S.D.C.C.G.B. (Originally issued September 1985, updated and revised November 2008, and again in January 2018)

REGIONAL CALLERS' ASSEMBLY CHARTER

1. PURPOSE:

- (a) The purpose of this Charter is to provide for the formation of an official Regional Callers' Assembly (R.C.A.).
- (b) The Charter contains the relevant considerations, which must be made in respect of the establishment of an R.C.A.
- (c) The R.C.A. must adhere to the conditions in place at the time of its formation, and to future revisions of the charter by the S.D.C.C.G.B. council.

2. NAME AND ADDRESS:

- (a) The name of the Assembly shall be: -
The Square Dance Callers Club of Great Britain (Area Name) Regional Callers' Assembly.
- (b) The Area Name shall be as correct as is possible, that is, it should clearly identify the main area covered, though callers from outside of the main area may also attend (see later).
- (c) The official address of the Assembly shall be: -
The Square Dance Callers Club of Great Britain (Area Name) Regional Callers' Assembly, c/o the Secretary of the Callers Club of Great Britain.
- (d) Any headed notepaper, advertising materials etc, produced in connection with the Regional Callers' Assembly shall be headed with the approved S.D.C.C.G.B. logo and sub-addressed/headed with R.C.A. details.
- (e) The address of the elected Area Representative may appear on the headed paper etc., for reference/reply.

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3. CONDITIONS:

- (a) An appropriate number of full members of S.D.C.C.G.B. must be signatories to a formal request to establish an R.C.A.; the S.D.C.C.G.B. Council will determine the actual amount of that "appropriate number", based upon the local circumstances (e.g. number of callers, regional situation etc.)
- (b) If there is an existing R.C.A. adjacent, or in a reasonable proximity to, the proposed new Assembly, a written dispensation must be obtained from the existing R.C.A. agreeing to the new Assembly.
- (c) One individual, who must be a full member of the S.D.C.C.G.B., must be submitted as the official Area Representative to S.D.C.C.G.B. and he/she or an appointed deputy should attend S.D.C.C.G.B.'s AGM and other designated meetings. Where this is not possible and a deputy is to attend, the S.D.C.C.G.B. Secretary should be informed prior to the meeting.
- (d) The R.C.A. will maintain a register of attendants, which shall be a list of those members of S.D.C.C.G.B., who:
- i. Wish to be registered attendants, and
 - ii. Attend a sufficient number of R.C.A. meetings in the area concerned to be registered (minimum 50% of R.C.A. meetings. (Local R.C.A.s may, at their discretion, allow registration if this requirement is not met).
- The register should be kept by the Area Representative and an updated list should be sent to the S.D.C.C.G.B. Secretary each year before the S.D.C.C.G.B. A.G.M.
- (e) A report of activities occurring at R.C.A.s should be sent to the S.D.C.C.G.B. Secretary for reference. If the R.C.A. wishes for a particular point to be raised before the full membership the report should contain this request.
- (f) Any resolutions or strong feelings arising from R.C.A. meetings shall be communicated to the S.D.C.C.G.B. for full appraisal of membership. The R.C.A. should not approach any other square dance body without first obtaining the consent of the S.D.C.C.G.B. Council.
- (g) R.C.A.s are actively encouraged to conduct caller training in line with the S.D.C.C.G.B. plans. To ensure that the R.C.A. training does not conflict with the plans of the S.D.C.C.G.B., all training queries should be referred to the council, or the individual identified by them in the first instance. Student callers should be encouraged to attend the R.C.A. where attendant callers can aid students by personal tuition, apprenticeships or mentoring.
- (h) The activities undertaken by an R.C.A. are deemed to be extra-curricular to the normal activities of S.D.C.C.G.B. Registration to an R.C.A. in no way enhances or detracts from the status of a member of S.D.C.C.G.B.
- (i) The R.C.A. should meet on a regular basis, the frequency of which is at the discretion of the Area Representative after considering the wishes of the members. However, at least one meeting should be held each year at which an AGM is formally held – this may, if the R.C.A. wish, be held at the meeting organised at the request of the S.D.C.C.G.B. council (see section 7 below), or be at a meeting organised by themselves.
- (j) Those attending an R.C.A. meeting must be either:
- (i) Members (full or otherwise) of the S.D.C.C.G.B.
 - (ii) Dancers that sit on an R.C.A.'s committee (if there is one).
 - (iii) Dancers or callers that are NOT themselves established callers (i.e. not someone that calls regularly, at least six tips a month, and been doing so for the last 12 months).

Note: if an R.C.A. member's membership of the S.D.C.C.G.B. lapse (not be renewed) or be cancelled, their membership of the R.C.A. must also automatically be cancelled with immediate effect. It is at the discretion of the Area Representative of the R.C.A. whether any R,C,A, membership fees are refunded (either in full or pro-rata).

However, the R.C.A. should encourage local callers who do not already attend their meetings, to visit the R.C.A. meetings and ultimately join both the R.C.A. and the S.D.C.C.G.B. with the following guidelines, which may be varied at the discretion of the Local Area Representative:

- (i) Non-established callers (newer or infrequent callers) should not attend more than four times over a 2 year period without joining the S.D.C.C.G.B. and R.C.A., and.
- (ii) Established callers (see above) should not attend more than once over a 2 year period without joining the S.D.C.C.G.B. and R.C.A..

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NOTE: The S.D.C.C.G.B. Council will consider a request for an official R.C.A. Charter providing the aforementioned conditions are met. Any of these conditions may be adjusted at the discretion of the S.D.C.C.G.B. Council in extenuating circumstances.

4. FINANCE:

- (a) The R.C.A. should be self-supporting, by levying a membership fee, an attendance fee or other fund raising means, though a small grant may be made available each year by the S.D.C.C.G.B. at the council's discretion.
- (b) Where the S.D.C.C.G.B. council officially attend an R.C.A. meeting, the cost of the hall, for the duration of the meeting, will be met by the S.D.C.C.G.B. instead of by the local R.C.A. (with a maximum cost as identified by the S.D.C.C.G.B. council).
- (c) In the event of revocation of a Charter:
 - i. Any monies remaining following the settlement of outstanding debts will be the property of S.D.C.C.G.B. to be placed in a deposit account. This deposit account may be used to meet the outstanding unpaid debts of an R.C.A. which has ceased to function.
 - ii. The Liability of S.D.C.C.G.B. to meet unpaid debts of an R.C.A., which is in liquidation, will only be up to the extent of the money contained in the deposit account.

5. INTERNAL R.C.A. STRUCTURE:

- (a) The registered attendant members of an R.C.A. should elect from amongst themselves a Regional Area Representative who must also be a full member of the S.D.C.C.G.B...
- (b) Elections should take place annually.
- (c) The R.C.A. may also chose to elect an organising committee to be headed by the Regional Area Representative, the composition of which is at the discretion of the Regional Area Representative and may comprise of callers and/or dancers as they see fit..
- (d) Whilst a caller may be an officially registered attendant of more than one R.C.A. they may not fill the role of Regional Area Representative for (nor serve on the Organising Committee of) more than one R.C.A.

6. REVOCATION, INCORPORATION AND SUSPENSION:

- (a) Once issued, a Charter may not normally be revoked, except under the circumstances in subsection (c) BELOW. It may however, at the request of the attendants, be suspended or incorporated with another local Charter. Incorporation will only take place if all registered attendants are in agreement.
- (b) If a Charter is suspended (because the R.C.A. is unable to meet, is unable to report or is unable to obtain sufficient members to continue etc.), it will be held in abeyance until incorporated by another Charter group or until the R.C.A. is deemed by its attendants to be viable to continue.
- (c) The revocation of a Charter may occur when:
 - i. The R.C.A. is deemed to be acting in a fashion likely to damage the integrity of Square Dancing, Calling or Teaching - such condemnation would require the expressed consensus of the membership of S.D.C.C.G.B.
 - ii. If the conditions of the Charter are deliberately ignored by the official action of the R.C.A. and following reasonable representations being made by the Council. or
 - iii. When the R.C.A. is, by the consent of the registered attendants, permanently suspended.

THE ABOVE PROCEDURES EXIST ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD ONLY BE USED AS A LAST RESORT, ALL OTHER REASONABLE COURSES OF ACTION HAVING BEEN SHOWN TO BE INEFFECTIVE.

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7. DATES OF MEETINGS:

R.C.A. meetings may be held at any time except: -

- i. When a S.D.C.C.G.B. meeting or, ideally, other R.C.A.s meeting is to be held,
- ii. When a S.D.C.C.G.B. function is to be held,
- iii. When a B.A.A.S.D.C./ S.D.C.C.G.B. joint function is to be held, or
- iv. At any time where the S.D.C.C.G.B. Council feels that there are valid grounds to deny a meeting.

The S.D.C.C.G.B. secretary must be notified as soon as possible of, and at least 30 days prior to, the dates of the R.C.A.s meetings so that this can be communicated, along with other significant dates, to avoid any conflicts. Generally speaking, the dates that are notified to the S.D.C.C.G.B. secretary first will take priority.

Members of the S.D.C.C.G.B. council will attempt to attend one of the R.C.A.'s meetings each year. Furthermore, the council may ask the R.C.A. to organise a local training day, which council members may attend in addition to, or in place of, the standard annual visit.

8. S.D.C.C.G.B. MEETINGS AND A.G.M.:

Whilst the effect of R.C.A.s may be to reduce attendance at full S.D.C.C.G.B. meetings, it is assumed to be an obligation on the part of R.C.A.s and Area Representatives to actively support maximum physical attendance of the membership at the A.G.M.