



European Square Dance Convention 2018 – Newsletter June 2017

It cannot have escaped your attention... The European Square and Round Dance Convention 2018 is coming. Next year this big event will be taking place in Amsterdam.

Because we think it is important to keep everybody informed about the organization and preparation, we want to take you for a look backstage.

The organization committee consists of a team of ten dancers, each a member of either the Rainbow Strollers, the Tulip Twirlers and/or the Motiveters. Aside from this committee, there is a 'Supervising Council', with one representative from each of these three clubs.

During the 'Dancing in a Winter Wonderland' 2015 the then present dancers gave the initial impetus to the request by the European Association of American Square Dancing Clubs (EAASDC) whether the three active EAASDC clubs were seeing possibilities to organize this 2018 European Convention. Now, a year and a half later, we may conclude that we are well on the way to this event.

In Amsterdam the big hall of Sports Centre Ookmeer has been booked, as has the Athletics Tracks, where the different shops will be housed and possibly also a number of related dance forms like Clogging and Contra Dancing. The central catering services will also be situated in Sports Centre Ookmeer.



Across the street from the Sports Centre sits the ALO (Academy for Physical Education). There, another five halls have been booked (among which is the Rounddance hall with a nice wooden floor), as well as a large space where dancers can take a rest and eat their own sandwiches.

A little further down the road another hall can be found. It belongs to the Pirates (a baseball association), which will be used to stay the night for those who register for this sleeping hall. Around Sports Centre Ookmeer hundreds of free parking spaces can be found. At the moment, there are about seventy parking spaces for campers and caravans, but the possibility to upgrade this number to a hundred, is being considered. There will also be a field for camping with tents.

Special arrangements about room prices have been made with three hotels. Recently a fourth hotel has been added to this list.

The website and Facebook page are being visited well and the pre-registration is successful. At this moment over 200 dancers from all over Europe, but also from Taiwan, have already registered. Furthermore, there has been interest from dancers from Australia, Russia, the United States and Canada.

The mastermind and maker of the flyer and the website, Ulli Hantke, has been nominated for the 'German Design Award 2018' in the category of 'Excellent Communications Design', which is a great achievement for such a small company. We are very happy with the work he did for us.



Arrangements have been made with Square Dance Shop Rhein Main about the sale of European Convention 2018 skirts and bolo ties. During the Convention Diamond Printers Hamburg will be selling T-shirts and polo shirts with the Convention's logo. This will all be done by order and in cooperation with the organization of the European Convention 2018.

First consultations have been held with the proprietor of the catering services at the venue. Several ideas have been reviewed about how to cater to a large number of dancers. We are thinking of a barbecue corner for meat, a fish corner, a poffertjes (tiny pancakes) stand, a vegetarian corner, stroopwafels (treacle waffles) for people with a sweet tooth and plenty to drink for the dancers. By distributing this over a large space, we try to relieve the pressure.



By now, the European Convention has been promoted in many places. We have been to the Spring and Student Jamborees in Germany, to the plus festival in England. We have been to the Cham weekend, the Danish Convention in Saeby and several other specials. Later this year we will be promoting the Convention at the Heartie Party in Hamburg and the Celebration Dance of the Lion Squares, both in Germany and the Lytham Festival - UK National Week of Dance.

The concept for the dancing program is ready. Our goal is to have every caller or cuer calling or cueing on different levels.

We hope to have fully informed you in this newsletter, so you will become as enthusiastic as we are. Together we can make this European Convention a great success. We hope to welcome you in Amsterdam next year!

Do you have any questions? Please talk about it with one of the EC committee members or send an email to info@europeanconvention2018.nl. We will respond to your question as quickly as possible in Dutch, English or German, whatever you prefer.



We will keep you up to date regularly about where we stand so we can look forward to the European Square Dance Convention 2018 Amsterdam together.

For more information: look at www.europeanconvention2018.nl or on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/europeanconvention2018.

With kind regards from the European Convention Team 2018,

Paula & Wil Stans, Miranda Hogendoorn & John Visser, Barbara Reinhartz, Joke Vos, Francis van der Linden, Martina van der Linden en Wil & Maarten Weijers.