



RPM NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE GSI CALLER SCHOOL AND DANCE FESTIVAL

One of the primary goals of RPM is to encourage the emergence of new callers; a Caller-School is one way of achieving this. As you will, no doubt, be aware RPM have offered Scholarships for this purpose.

Readers of this magazine will have noticed many references to “Grand Square Incorporated” (GSI) and to the special event that is due to take place this June in Cambridgeshire. However, it has occurred to us that some of you may not be aware of who GSI are and what they are doing for Square Dancing and how it fits with the aims of RPM – especially with regard to our caller-based objectives.

GSI (Grand Square Incorporated) was founded by the Curlee Family in 1999 in Charlotte, North Carolina; a family who enjoy and love Square Dancing. It is an organisation, based in the U.S.A. that has achieved charity status as a non-profit foundation and is dedicated to preserving Square Dancing all around the world.

GSI arranges events that feature top named callers (who are accredited by CALLERLAB as Caller Coaches) and offer tuition FREE-OF-CHARGE to new and existing callers; this is the primary purpose of the GSI UK 2009 Festival. The school runs for a week prior to the dance festival that takes place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (12 –14 June); this festival is open for everybody to attend.

The hope is that the dance festival will cover the costs of the school; any shortfall has to be met by the GSI organisation. It should be noted that - whilst the amount of money that GSI makes available for these events is considerable, it is not unlimited - the number of events organised in any one year will depend upon the extent to which each Dance Festival can meet the costs of each Caller-School.

In June – 44 callers and 6 cuers will be attending the school in the U.K. and it is the hope of the BAASDC and SDCCGB Joint Council’s RPM Committee that as many British dancers as possible will show their support for what GSI is trying to do by attending the festival weekend as dancers; if you haven’t yet reserved your space, please contact the GSI UK 2009 team as soon as you can and sign up!

For more details about GSI UK 2009 contact Susie Kelly at 01280 816940. If you wish, you can register on the Internet at: **www.gsi-england.co.uk**; for more information on GSI (the parent body) see: **www.grandsquare.org**