

English National Old Time Dance Society Summer Weekend 2015

We held our first dance weekend holiday at the Rockingham Forest Hotel from Friday 14th to Monday 17th August 2015.

This recently built Hotel was set in lovely landscaped gardens and the facilities were first class as were the bedrooms with many on the ground floor, much appreciated by all of us who find climbing stairs after an evening of Old Time, challenging!!!

The food was really good as were all the staff, and with many spacious public areas both inside and out, this was an excellent place to just sit and relax in the sunshine. This was the first time any of us have been to this hotel and we were very pleasantly surprised to discover the excellent Ballroom which was spacious, plenty of seating and good acoustics, lighting and air conditioning, in fact ideal for our Old Time Dance Weekend.

Our M.C. for our first evening was our Chairman Mike Cooper and with all the committee sharing the leading this proved an ideal way of giving variety to the evening. With the excellent Philip Randles providing the music this was a great way to start our weekend.

On Saturday morning after breakfast, over 40 of us made our way to the nearby Rutland Water, the largest man made body of water in England. Mike Savory had organised a boat trip around this tourist attraction on the Rutland Belle where we were treated to an informative and interesting morning and with brilliant sunshine all the way this was indeed an unmissable experience. And a big thank you to David & Catherine Willis who couldn't attend the boat trip but donated their ticket money to the society.

Saturday evening our M.C. was President Fred Boast and with the committee sharing the leading again another great evening of Old Time Dancing was had. One of the highlights of our Saturday Ball was an Old Time Demonstration by the excellent Tyrone & Katrine, whose superb exhibition of Old Time, put us all to shame in showing us how Old Time should be danced. Also a very big thank you to all who supported the raffle and contributed prizes, as a result £143 was raised for Society Funds. 'Thankyou'

On Sunday morning, after breakfast a teaching session was held in the Ballroom for any who wished to attend, so we were delighted when 54 members turned up. After a few warm up dances, David & Wendy taught the 1952 prize winning dance by Stan & Vi Ross The Clarendon Saunter, Following this Fred taught us all The Tango Quadrilles by Bernard Wilding as both these dances were on that evenings program.

On Sunday Evening after a superb carvery dinner, our last evening was hosted by our Membership Secretary Mike Savory. Our Music for the evening was provided by the ever excellent David Ingley, and again with all the leading being shared by the Committee another great evening of Old Time was had and we were all pleasantly surprised when we had 5 sets dancing Tango Quadrilles.

So we came to the end of our first weekend together which everybody agreed was extremely enjoyable because of the happy, friendly & relaxed atmosphere – just like it used to be - and how it should be! So a very big thank you to everyone who supported and helped to make this so successful.