

ALLEMANDERS HISTORY



The Allemanders was formed in 1974 at Burtonwood American Air Base, where the Caller was Major Bill Crane, popularly known (I know not why!) as the "Colonel". Security was tight at the air base but non-military guests could get passes to go there and join in the dancing. The badge of the Unit at Burtonwood was the crossed flags of America and Britain, with their own Unit badge in the centre. The Allemanders based their own club badge on these two flags but replaced the central military badge with the red rose of Lancaster.

The Colonel taught one of the local men, Dave Burgess, to call and when he (the Colonel) returned to the States, Dave became the club caller. The club then moved to the "Festival Suite", the downstairs room at Alford Sports & Social Club in Warrington, where they continued to dance and the club flourished. In due course Dave taught Alan Trengove to call as well and a few years later the club moved to the present venue, the ballroom upstairs at Alford Hall.

The club banner was made by a couple from Bradford, Albert and Mollie Sutcliffe. Each stripe of the US flag and each triangle and cross of the British one were individually made, producing the magnificent banner we still have. The practice was to take the banner to any clubs which were visited, where all visiting clubs would also display their banners. This system still continues at Saturday night dances and dance weekends. Each club had a Birthday Dance and ours was on the third Saturday of March each year with visiting "big name" callers and this continued for over 40 years.

