

FIRST CLUB NIGHT

Present by Tom Rudebock at the March 2002

Club members, all dancers, need to need to extend every extra effort to make “new graduates” feel welcome. Visit with them, dance with them, encourage them, anything to make them feel welcome and wanted.

Callers should watch the floor closely, adjusting times and tempo as needed and use mostly standard, flowing choreography.. Don't try to 'dazzle', you may cause them to 'frazzle'.

DANCERS:

- a) Pick them up and take them to the dance.
- b) Club member invites “new graduate” to be their guest for the night.
- c) *Gently guide*, don't push-pull them into position if they 'trip' on a call.
- d) Don't criticize if they make a mistake.
- e) Invite them into your square.
- f) If at all possible, don't let 'new graduates' all get in the same square.
- g) Admit it if you made the mistake.
- h) Invite them to be first in refreshment line.
- i) Invite them to join you before and/or after if you are going out to eat.
- j) Invite them to join in club social activities during the class season.
- k) Don't forget you were once a 'new graduate'.
- l) If you square breaks down, regroup in lines as quickly as possible.
- m) After each tip, find something to compliment them on.
- n) Member should angel as often as possible during lessons.
- o) Shake hands, Yellow Rocks, before each tip starts, introduce yourself.
- p) *PRAISE, PRAISE, PRAISE.*
- q) Give special recognition, welcome, to the 'new graduates'
(ie; introductions, dangle, reception line)
- r) Treat them like family.

SOME EXAMPLES:

In our area, clubs and the Federation, sponsor *New Dancer Dances* where the level is held to where they are in the learning curve. All clubs are encouraged to visit other clubs. This helps them meet other new dancers and helps them become acquainted to other voices and calling styles. You may want to invite the new dancers to be greeters with an experienced couple.

Lessons on the same night as a club dance in the same hall. New dancers are invited to participate in at least one tip with the club during the evening and be a part of the social time.

Hi — Lo Dances: Alternating 'new dancer' — 'experienced' tips. New dancers should be given a reduced admission, because they only dance half of the time.

Club Social Activities: Invite them to be a part of the clubs social, non-dancing, activities during the lesson period. Dinner out, Covered dish dinners, Theater night, Club meetings.

CALLERS:

- a) Keep first and last tips simple. Let them succeed to start and finish on a successful note.
- b) Don't try to impress them with your latest, newest choreography. They'll remember you longer if you can keep them dancing all evening.
- c) If it is your style, use some short jokes — one liners. Keep the evening lite-hearted.
- d) PRAISE, PRAISE, PRAISE
- e) Don't criticize over the microphone.
- f) Mix and mingle with the 'new graduates' between tips.
- g) Adjust timing and tempo as needed.
- h) Don't assume, because they have graduated, they know and remember all the calls.
- i) Use the KISS theory "Keep It Simple Stupid"

AT 'NEW DANCER' DANCES WE ARE SEEING THE IMPACT OF THE USE OF TWO TEACHING LISTS. IT IS NOT IN OUR ACTIVITIES BEST INTEREST.