

# "Sussing" a Floor



As a caller, it means asking a series of strategic "questions" to help position my program for that particular group at that particular event.

I want to be able to do so with accuracy no later than 2/3 of the way through the patter portion of the first tip.

## "Sussing" Is Emotional & Choreographical

### Before the dance:

- 1) Faces coming in - smiles?
- 2) Attitude of sponsoring club - greeters?
- 3) Circulate & greet (knowns vs unknowns)
- 4) Workshop or Round dancers' skills

### Squared up:

- 1) Say something positive to the group over the mic: "Turn to your corner and say, 'Have you ever SEEN me dance?'"  
ARE THEY SMILING??? AM I SMILING??? (facial mimicry)
- 2) "Bow to Partner, Corner too" - hand holds? Pre-programmed?
- 3) First 2-3 sequences vanilla, straight forward.  
watching for timing, listening, hand holds & positioning, automatic responses, getting them used to my voice, cadence, how do they react to a resolve? (enthusiastic shout, hand pat for Allemande Left, stopping short at home, etc.)  
ARE THEY SMILING???? AM I SMILING???
- 4) Tester calls:  
Scootback, Split Circulate, Dixie Style, Tag Line, Cloverleaf, RLG get-out  
ARE THEY SMILING??? AM I SMILING???  
Spin Chain Gears, Flip Diamond, FYN, Chase Right, Peel Off

### Between Tips

- 1) Circulate & greet - pick out specific people who might need a word of encouragement
- 2) Be AVAILABLE & RECEPTIVE to verbal feedback: "Can you do such-and-such a song?"  
"We can't hear in the back!" "You're too loud!" "Where's Jon?"

*Note: "Sussing" is ongoing (to a certain extent) throughout the dance event. Fine-tuning is required as the hour and fatigue level of the dancers evolves.*

Success isn't permanent, and failure isn't fatal.

**Mike Ditka**

*Presented at CALLEERLAB Convention, Niagra Falls, NY, March 2010*

by

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