

## CALLERS CORNER

A forum for the exchange of information  
between Callers & Dancers

Written by : Geoff Clarke

### Greetings All!

Well, I'm still awaiting my first 'question' directly to this column, but then it's early in the season yet, so please don't be shy! If it's something that's been bugging you (but you didn't want to comment); something you've always wondered about (but didn't want to ask); or something you really don't know about (but were afraid to ask) then this is the place to get the answers! Really...just ask!!

As mentioned in the last issue, the best person you should address your question to is your own Club Caller, but if you haven't had the time or opportunity, then you can send your questions directly by email to me at the following address: [askthecaller@squaresandrounds.com](mailto:askthecaller@squaresandrounds.com) or by "snail mail" to the Square Times Editor, who'll pass it along. All questions will be answered and those that would be of interest to all will be published in this column, with anonymity ensured unless you request otherwise.

Ok, over to you!

**Geoff**



## ASK THE CALLER

This question comes from a new dancer who was having a problem & didn't know just how to deal with it.

**"I now have a "Please Don't Swing Me' button but what should I do instead of swinging & how do I get the gents to 'not' swing me?"**

Let me answer this question in 2 ways, first to explain why the 'Don't Swing' button & then what you should do to ensure that your wishes are respected.

**"DON'T SWING ME"** button means exactly that, as the wearer either experiences dizziness, or has a physical problem that prevents them doing a normal 'swing'. What to do then when a 'swing' is called? A swing normally takes 6-8 beats of music, so you can either do a Dosado instead or, because Promenade often follows, just get into the Promenade position & then wait until the rest of the dancers in the square start to promenade, then just fall into step! Gents - note also that 'Don't Swing' also applies to the 'twirls' that often accompany the beginning & end of promenades. So, for those that do the swinging, be considerate - if not sure, then ask !

So how do you 'stop' someone from swinging or twirling you? Well, experienced dancers will usually spot the button & respect your wishes, however, if a Gent attempts to swing you, then speak directly to him & just say "Sorry I don't Swing!", and that should be sufficient. Should that not work, then simply hold your ground,

don't swing, don't make any contact other than turning around & getting into the promenade position & offering your hands for the promenade, and reminding your 'partner' that you do not swing.

While on the topic of "Buttons", there's a couple of others that you may encounter at any time :-

- **SORE HANDS** - button being worn indicates that special care must be taken when dancing with this person. Gentle hand holds are a must !! Please be considerate !!
- **SOLO** ribbon being worn - often seen at Open Dances. This means that the wearer does not have a regular partner for the night and would REALLY APPRECIATE it if you would ask him/her to dance at least one tip with them!!

If there's any other buttons or ribbons that you've seen that you'd like to have 'explained' then please send them along !

## WHAT THE CALLER SEES!



**Promenades - Some people stop short, some don't – what's going on?**

When "Promenade" is called, you generally have up to 16 beats (steps) of music to get from 'where you are' to 'home'. So, lets say

you're 2 steps past home when you hear 'Promenade', then you'll use 14 of the available 16 to get there - no problem! But, if you're 6 steps from home & stop there, then you're standing doing nothing for 10 more beats of music. What would you rather do, stand or dance? Now the 'general' rule of thumb is simply this - if you're 'more than half-way' (ie: 8 steps) from home, then Promenade home - if less, then 'keep going' - all the way around. There's one more caveat to consider, especially if your square has broken down since the last promenade and you 'may' not be in your normal position - If the #1 man stops at 'his home', then the rest of the square assumes whatever position you're now in - whether it's head or side! That's it!

**And finally.....**

**What if someone 'faints' or 'falls' while dancing -what do you do ?**

Everyone in the square immediately stop dancing and someone assist the person that has fallen down. If the person is 'ok' then everyone set-up in the appropriate position so that you can restart dancing. If the situation is more serious, again 1 or 2 provide the appropriate assistance (First Aid, CPR, Call to 911 etc), then the rest will form a circle around the affected dancer. This does 2 things, (1) protects the affected person & their helpers & (2) alerts the Caller & all others that 'there is a problem' and someone requires help! In the latter case, be sure that the Dance Organizers or Club Caller is advised of the details & circumstances surrounding the incident.

**Until next issue....**