



Evolve ~~or die~~...and thrive!

October 9, 2010

Discourteous behaviors

Examples of discourteous behavior

- Being unkind or unpleasant to dancer with less skill
- Anger or unpleasant comments/looks when square breaks down
- Walking past a forming square
- Leaving a square (unless medical or personal emergency)
- Pre-determined or "setup" squares
- Inappropriate touching that is clearly not accidental
- Roughness (pulling, pushing, shoving, holding hand/arm too tight)
- Verbal abusive behaviors (sex talk, dirty jokes, gender/racial slurs)
- Others???

What should other dancers do if they witness discourteous behavior?

- Do NOT get into a confrontation or encourage the behavior in any way
- Smile, show support for the person to whom the bad behavior is directed
- If square breaks down, no matter how many times, encourage everyone to form lines and wait for caller to call "lines forward and back"
- After tip is finished, discuss problem with club/organization officer
- If discourteous behavior is exhibited by same person repeatedly, officers should address it -- can be done discreetly by letter sent to their home

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Over a hundred years ago, Queen Victoria was entertaining a foreign dignitary who was unfamiliar with British table service. The guest mistakenly drank from their finger bowl. Without a moment's hesitation the Queen drank from her own finger bowl. The entire court followed her example. Nothing exhibits better the reason for etiquette and manners. They are not designed to censure anyone or to cramp their style but simply to create an atmosphere where as many people as possible can feel safe and secure in a public environment. Let's take a page from the good old Queen!

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Ten Commandments of Square Dancing

I Thou shalt honor thy Caller and harken to his voice, for thy success depends greatly upon his words.

II Thou shalt exchange greetings and be friendly to all in thy group lest thee be labeled a snob and unworthy of thy title; "Square Dancer".

III Thou shalt not ridicule those dancers possessing two left hands but endeavor to help them distinguish one from the other.

IV Thou shalt strive to dance in different squares thereby giving to all, the benefits of thy fine personality and great experience.

V Thou shalt not anticipate nor dance ahead of thy Caller for he is of fiendish nature and possessed of evil powers to foul thee up and make thee appear an idiot in the eyes of thy fellow dancers.

VI Thou shalt not, when thee has goofed, moan and belittle thy Caller, thy Partner, nor the slippery floor for thine own stupid mistakes.

VII Thou shalt bathe diligently before the dance thereby creating a pleasant aroma for thy Partner and leaving the more earthly smells to the factory and the barnyard.

VIII Thou shalt remain silent while thy Caller gives advice and instructions lest he go berserk and mumble to himself and offer to break records on thy unworthy head.

IX Thou shalt not partake of strong drink before nor during the dance lest thy mind become befuddled and thee ends up with thy foot in thine own large mouth.

X Thou shalt strive to observe these Commandments and thy reward shall be great. Many friends shall thee have and thy name shall be listed among the finest people -- The Square Dancer!

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