

## Notes from Ed Foot Workshop

### Six hints for better dancing

1. Align the dancers with the walls and teach them to do it themselves as much as possible
  - a. When you have a promenade and heads wheel around for example, they are not always aligned – encourage the dancers when they learn, to align with the walls
  - b. When they do it, is usually an indication that they are better dancers
2. Tell your dancers early on, when the caller says promenade don't slow down...mostly there will be a wheel around coming....whisper to your partner that it may be coming and to get ready to align to the walls. Get the dancers to whisper to each other each other, we are heads or sides.
3. From facing lines of four, if the caller doesn't say forward and back, **DO NOT DO IT**. Many callers do not allow time to do the movement, because it is a calling habit,
4. If the dancers get lost – teach them not to turn around. Teach them to turn their heads sideways and look around to see where you should be. If you can't see it, someone will generally help you out
  - a. Explain to them it is also easier to guide a dancer from the back and you will recover quicker.
5. Tell dancers when squaring up – strong couples opposite and not adjacent.
  - a. This will mostly keep at least two strong dancers with two weaker dancers
  - b. Heads lead right example, or heads square thru...etc..
  - c. If they are adjacent you end up in a square where strong dancers and weak dancers are adjacent...then you end up with two strong and two weak couples dancing together, and the square often breaks down
6. Teach your dancers that if they do break down (and they will) that they need to make facing lines.....
  - a. Teach them to get to facing lines – square the set and heads back out into a line.
  - b. Teach them to do it quickly...make a game of it – it helps

#### NOTE for caller:

- Callers - identify when dancers are in "standing lines" . teach the dancers to wait for the caller to say "lines" ...or to identify when the rest of the floor is in facing lines.....
- Teach them not do not take the next call because although they may be able to the call, it is not the right place to go from.
- Practice this skill.