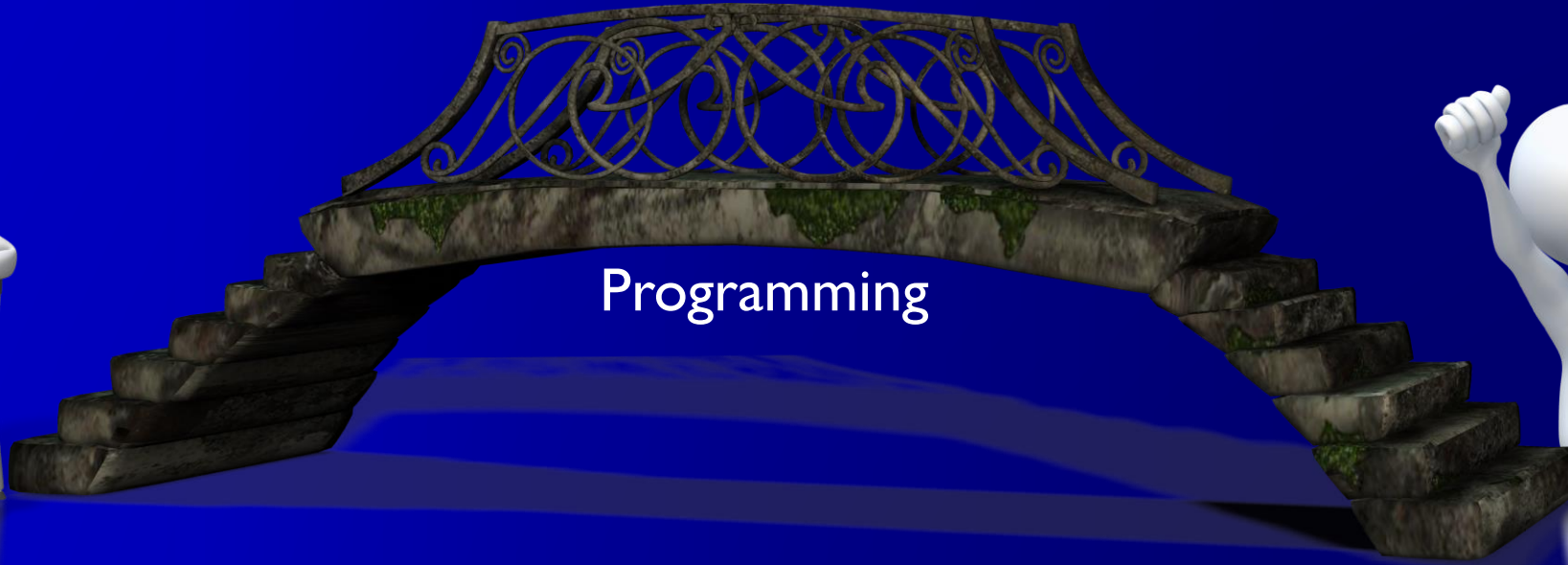


PLANNING VS PREPARATION STEPS TO SUCCESS



Planning



Programming



Preparation



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PLANNING AND PREPARATION

Truths

1. Good preparation and planning are key elements of conducting an effective and efficient performance
2. Failing to plan and prepare means you planned and prepared to fail



PPPPP

**PRIOR PLANNING AND PREPARATION
PREVENTS POOR PERFORMANCE**

PLANNING AND PREPARATION

What's the difference

Planning and preparation are not the same thing.

- **Great callers prepare for opportunity**
- **Preparation means creating the circumstances to be ready to take advantage of that opportunity**

**Great callers become great by doing both
Preparation and Planning**

PREPARING FOR OPPORTUNITY

Preparation is about “positioning”

- “Luck” - happens when preparation meets opportunity
- Plan for the future – Plan your work - Work your plan
- Planning – Imposing your will as a caller on the future

GREAT CALLERS

- **Build a strategy that says the outcome and how to get there**
- **Have focused discipline to do what it takes to get there**



PLANNING IS GOOD

Basics of a plan



1. Plan To be a caller
2. Plan To do what you need to do to learn.
3. Plan To achieve the basic fundamental requirements.
4. Plan on taking action to fulfill those requirements
5. Plan to be in a position to seize any opportunity to use those skills
6. Plan to call in such a way that **the dancers always come first.**

THAT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING

PLANNING DOESN'T STOP

Once you have the basics

1. Develop your calling strategy
2. Plan your personal training and development schedule
3. Plan your calling and teaching schedule
4. Plan your evening schedule
5. Plan your tip schedule

what's
your
PLAN



**Programming is the bridge between
planning and preparation**

PREPARATION – EVEN BETTER THAN PLANNING

LEVEL 1 - PLANNING

- You have an objective
- You have a plan
- You have a program



LEVEL 2 PREPARATION

- Getting ready to do the work – planning only tells you “WHAT” you need
- Preparation readies you with the “HOW” and the “I CAN”



← **Planning leads to awareness**

Preparation leads to readiness →



PREPARATION – HINTS AND TIPS

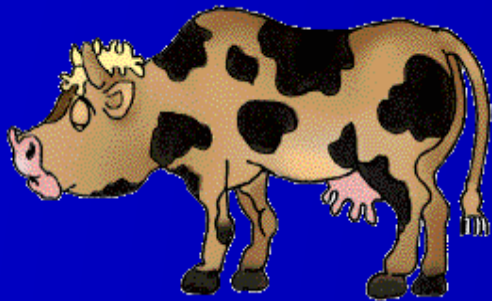
- ✓ **Have your plan ready.** Review your plan & preparations. Give yourself time.
- ✓ **Prepare Well in Advance** – The further in advance you prepare, the more time you have to remedy any unforeseen obstacles.
- ✓ **Do the (Pre)Work** – Preparation is about doing the work in advance. Read the materials. Review the data. Practice the activity. It's all about being ready.
- ✓ **Save Time** – Preparing properly actually saves you time. - prepared tips take less time to present.
- ✓ **Reduce Your Stress** – When you are ready, you are confident.
- ✓ **Make It a Habit** – Make preparation part of your calling lifestyle.

**PLAN ALL YOU WANT BUT
IF YOU DO NOT PREPARE - YOU WILL NOT BE READY**

PLAN AND PREPARE FOR THE UNEXPECTED

- Accept that even the best plans and preparations can fall apart
- Be ready to come back with a new plan of attack
- Good planning means built in flexibility and adaptation
- Planning and preparation really matter – **it shows when you don't**
- Planning is good – preparation is better. They are different.

You can PLAN until the cows come home



YOU CAN ONLY PREPARE FOR THE UNEXPECTED

HOW PREPARED ARE YOU?

1. You are calling a dance and the music dies
2. The power goes out in the hall
3. Someone has a heart attack and dies on your floor
4. The floor has just been waxed and is super slippery
5. 5 minutes before the dance, your wife tells you that your relationship is over
6. You have a bad throat just before the dance and cant get another caller
7. The floor is packed for your Mainstream DBD. Most can dance standard BASIC
8. Everyone in the hall is wearing identical club uniform colours and styles



**We all have stories – we remember the ones that we won
The dancers remember you for the ones that failed.**

WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

A GREAT SQUARE DANCE HAS A FEW COMPONENTS FOR SUCCESS

- 1. PLAN** and prepare as much as possible before loading the car
- 2. PROGRAM** your presentation with a clear goal – Schedule
 - Arrival and set up
 - Meeting the executive/organisers and the dancers
 - Two minute warning
 - Dance program – tip/evening/event from the bottom up
 - Program your focus for each tip
- 3. PREPARE** your choreography and music for each tip –answer what and why
- 4. PRACTICE** - PATTERN, MODULES, SINGING CALLS AND REPEAT
 - An evening dance is usually called 3 times – but only once for the dancers

**Remember – you are in control and you are ready
BEING IN CONTROL GIVES FLEXIBILITY**

BEING EFFECTIVE IN CALLING

Preparation instils confidence

You cannot control everything – but you can control yourself

Each dance has a new challenge for each caller and each dancer

Your performance is affected by the dancers and only the “prepared you” can control the dancers.

Hints and tips

- Floor weak and sluggish - compromise choreography for dancer success.
- Prepare opening sequences that are interesting and fun
- Present easier memorized modules or written sequences for rest of the night.
- Encourage the dancer interaction
- Focus on fun and keeping the atmosphere light and pleasurable.

IT GETS EASIER WITH EXPERIENCE

NOBODY IS PERFECT

STRIVING FOR PERFECTION IS A WASTE OF EVERYONE'S TIME

- Set your bar too high and you will feel bad when you cannot meet it



- Always try to do better and improve
- Those that think they are perfect have really just stopped trying
- Callers make mistakes but if they learn from them they will get better and better

**The better you get at your craft
The more you will have prepared and practiced
The dancers are the winners – not you**

MENTAL PREPARATION

Optimise your performance under pressure

Calling **IS** high stress – especially for new callers

Being prepared increases confidence and lowers stress

Some Methods of Mental Preparation

- Meditation
- Listen to music – take a nap – have a coffee
- Psyche yourself “UP” – each performance is a big event
- Develop a habitual routine
- When it works – the dancers will let you know it

DON'T try for perfection – just be prepared

**PERFECTION IS UNATTAINABLE
EXCELLENCE IS NOT**



THE INTERNAL DIALOGUE

LEARN TO LIE TO YOURSELF AND FAKE IT

- Your internal conversation will influence your performance
- If you think you will – you will make it happen – success or fail
- Anxiety shows in both your body and your voice
- If you don't believe in you – neither will the dancers

CREATE AN IMAGE - SUCCESSFUL, HAPPY, ENERGETIC DANCER

- You have planned, programmed, and prepared and practice
- See yourself performing - then do it.

CONVINCE WITH CONFIDENCE

FINAL TIPS ON PERFORMANCE PREPARATION

- Get everyone on the floor up and dancing quickly. Start EASY and FUN.
- Don't hesitate to prompt the dance the first time..
- Limit your MIC TIME.
 - A tip no longer than 10 minutes – this includes workshop tips
 - Save Teaching for classes - 10 minutes patter max/ 4-minute singing call

The Strategic Goal applies to patter, singing call, tip, evening, festival, or year program

Dancer /caller connection - A community joined by laughter music and a good time.

**THE STRATEGIC GOAL IS:
HAPPY SUCCESSFUL DANCERS THAT
SHARE A GENUINE SOCIAL RECREATION EXPERIENCE
AND WANT TO COME BACK FOR MORE**

We will look at a single tip as an example after question



Preparation example

PLAN – to be a Good Caller – Better than I am now

- Opportunity created - “LUCKY REQUEST” to call an entire Tip Alone

SCENARIO – Club caller asks me to do a full tip on a fun night

- Assigned task: - Flutterwheel as a focus – 3 uses in patter and singing call

OPPORTUNITY CREATED

**Strategic plan – happy dancers with Flutterwheel
Component parts to identify (needed for success)**

PLANNING FOR THE TIP

Plan – to get the dancers doing Flutterwheel differently and enjoying it

Plan – To be successful in my Choreo

Plan - To use Flutterwheel/reverse Flutterwheel and 4 ladies Flutterwheel in my singing call

Plan – Alternative singing calls with simple flutterwheel “just in case”

Analysis of target requirements

The club: Mainstream – solid dancers – plus group is visiting from Sister club – expect 8-10 squares

Tip/Focus: 3rd tip – expectation – workshop Flutterwheel – 3 uses - simple

Patter: 4-6 minutes - neutral with beat

- Easy – Chaparel 104 – 3:41 minutes
- 10-20 Hoedown – HH 0648 – 8:02 Min

Singing call – lifting and energetic but not mass driver –

- Heaven in my Woman’s Eyes – Ranch House 226
- Good Luck Charm – Rhythm 161

Strategy – (tip Plan)

- Patter call – Heads/ sides / all four
- Patter CB – PL flutter
- Patter PL – CB reverse flutter
- Patter Combo

Programming the tip - Modules

- Intro (4 ladies Fluttewheel)
- First figure – Heads – Reverse Flutter / Flutterwheel – CB
- Second Figure – Sides – Flutterwheels PL
- Third Figure – Heads – Mix and match
- Break figure – Four Boys Reverse Flutter To A Promenade
- Fifth figure – Reverse Flutterwheels
- Sixth figure – Flutter, Reverse, Right And Left Grand ending

KEEP THE SEQUENCES SHORT
Keep the dancers happy and successful

Preparation Plan

- Review Definition
- Prepare Modules
- Prepare singing call figures
- practice

Planning the presentation – (Programming Myself)

- Microphone
- Patter music X2 – Primary and secondary
- Singing call X2 – primary and secondary
- Tip placement 3 (workshop focus – pick up and building)
- Class level – Full mainstream
- Club dancers known (who are they dancing with)– Bob/Shiela/Frank/ Betty/Ron/Sam/Jenny – Make sure I greet them
- Water – warm water before my tip – bottle of warm water on stage

KEEP THE SEQUENCES SHORT

Keep the dancers happy and successful

Preparation – The choreographic stuff

Review Definition

44. Flutterwheel / Reverse Flutterwheel

Starting formation: Facing Couples - or From a Squared Set, for "All 4 Couples"

Command examples: Flutterwheel, Reverse Flutterwheel, Reverse The Flutter

Dance action: The right-side dancers leave their current partner and Right Arm Turn with each other a full turn, each ending where they started. Halfway through this motion, they take a couple handhold with the other dancer (i.e., the one they were originally facing directly), and the second half of the Arm Turn is completed with each new couple working as a unit. **For Reverse Flutterwheel**, use the same dance action, except that the left-side dancers Left Arm Turn.

Ending formation: Facing Couples **Timing:** 8 (SS All four ladies, 12 steps.)

Styling: Each dancer who is on the outside blends smoothly into a new couple by turning slightly to become adjacent to the approaching dancer and reaching out to create a couple handhold.

Some dancers begin moving forward beforehand contact is made and then walk slightly ahead of their new partner so that the overall motion is smoother. When the outside dancers are women, they may use skirt work with their free hand.

Trouble: In the call Ladies Lead, Flutterwheel, - sometimes mixed with dixie style

Preparation – Singing Call Modules

This can be done in any order. I prefer fix point modules to start (CB-CB / PL-PL / Conversion / Getout

<p>CB-CB Swing Thru Boys Trade Boys Run Bend the Line Reverse Flutter & Sweep 1/4</p>	<p>CB-CB Right and Left Thru Flutterwheel & Sweep 1/4 Pass the Ocean Boys Cross Run (left hand) trade Trade Chain Down the Line Flutterwheel & Sweep 1/4</p>	<p>PL-PL Pass Thru Reverse Wheel Around Reverse Flutterwheel Pass Thru, Bend the Line Right and Left Thru Flutterwheel Reverse Flutterwheel Pass Thru Girls Trade, Boys Run Right and Left Thru</p>	<p>PL-CB Pass Thru Centers Trade and Ladies lead Reverse Flutterwheel Ends Trade Pass Thru Wheel and Deal Centers Pass Thru</p>
<p>CB-PL Swing Thru Girls Circulate Boys Trade Swing Thru Recycle & Sweep 1/4 Pass Thru Partner Trade Reverse Flutterwheel</p>	<p>PL-CB Pass Thru Centers Trade and Ladies Lead Reverse Flutterwheel Ends Trade Pass Thru Wheel and Deal Centers Pass Thru</p>	<p>CB-Resolve Touch a Quarter Split Circulate Boys Run Reverse Flutter & Sweep 1/4 Swing Thru Girls Circulate Right and Left Grand</p>	<p>PL-Resolve Pass Thru, Wheel and Deal Centers Pass Thru Right and Left Thru Flutterwheel & Sweep 1/4 Pass Thru, Partner Trade Reverse Flutterwheel (keep her) Promenade Home</p>

Patter options: Easy – Chaparral 104 – 3:41 minutes **or** 10-20 Hoedown – HH 0648 – 8:02 Min

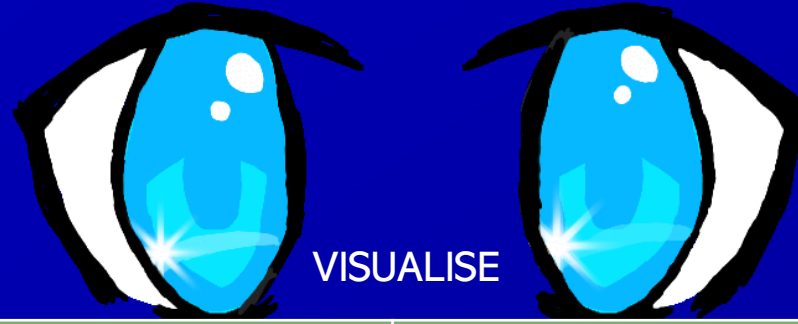
Preparation – Singing call Modules

Prepare Modules – Have an opener/break option and at least 2 figures

Open / break options	Figure	alternate
Four ladies chain	Heads Right and Left Thru	Heads Touch 1/4
All Four ladies flutterwheel	Heads Flutterwheel and Back Away	Head Boys Run
Four boys reverse fluttewheel	Sides Lead Right	Swing Thru
½ sashay and circle left	Touch a Quarter	Boys Trade
Ladies rollaway and circle left	Girls Run & Girls Lead	Boys Run
Allemande left	Reverse Flutterwheel and Sweep 1/4	Chain Down the Line
and promenade	Half Sashay - (Boys in front)	Pass Thru
	Pass Thru	Reverse Wheel Around
	Allemande Left	Reverse Flutterwheel and and Sweep a Quarter
	Swing Corner and Promenade	Veer Right
		Keep her and promenade home

- Singing Call: Heaven In My Woman's Eyes – Ranch House 226 - or - Good Luck Charm – Rhythm 161

Practice – Practice - Practice



- Practice the patter
 - Visualise the introduction bits – 4 couples
Flutterwheel
 - Use the modules
- Practice the modules – use both patter records
- Practice mix and match
- Practice the singing calls
- **Repeat**
- Practice the entire tip
- Take a Break
- **Practice again**
- Take a break
- **Practice again**

Heads separate around 2 1/2

and when you meet – Star thru

Sides Right and Left Thru and back away

Sides Back Away

Four Ladies Chain

All four ladies lead Flutterwheel

Circle left

Allemande Left

Right and Left Grand

Promenade Home

Four Ladies Chain

Everybody Half Sashay

Heads Pass Thru and Wheel Around

Heads boys lead

Flutterwheel and back away

Sides Pass Thru and Wheel Around

Sides Boys lead

Flutterwheel and Back Away

(boys lead)

All 4 girls lead Reverse Flutterwheel

All 4 boys lead Flutterwheel

Everybody - Reverse Half Sashay

Allemande Left

Right and Left Grand

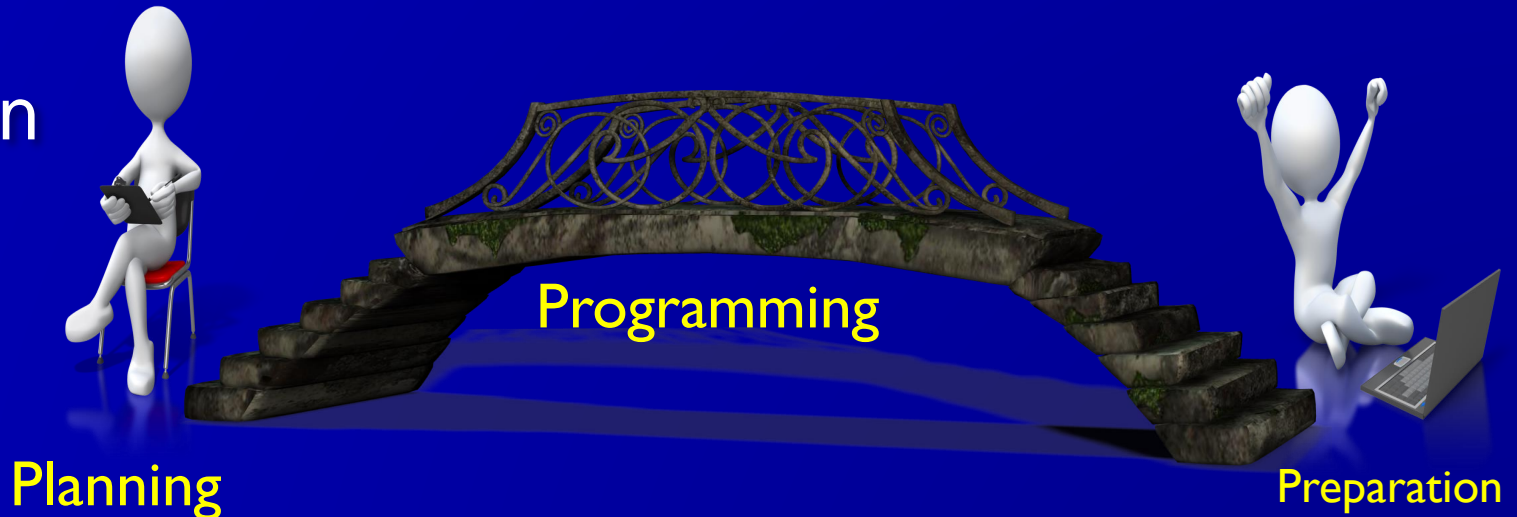
Promenade Home

LONG STORY SHORT

There is a lot that goes into being a caller

Each step of the journey has a plan a program and a preparation phase

- Deciding to be a caller
- Learning the basics
- Developing the skills
- Doing that first presentation
- Doing that first tip
- Doing that first night
- Doing that first club/class
- The journey never ends



**It is a worthwhile journey for those that make it
Those that made it – followed this process**

Questions and Discussion

