

A Dozen Thoughts on the Etiquette of the Dance Floor

1. *Make everyone welcome on the dance floor. Dance with a variety of partners.*
2. *Always ask visitors to dance. It gives the club a friendly reputation.*
3. *At the end of a dance, thank your partner and the other dancers in your set. They all contributed to the enjoyment.*
4. *When forming sets always join a set from the bottom. It is impolite to walk into a set that has already formed.*
5. *If you feel uncomfortable in 1st or 2nd place, and would like to be in 4th place, you must ask the couple in 4th place if they will switch with you.*
6. *The first man or the first couple in each line on the floor should start to number off the sets, then let the MC know how many couples are still needed.*
7. *Stay in your line and position as sets are being numbered, to avoid confusion and miscounts.*
8. *Avoid reading cheat sheets as you wait for a dance to start. You cannot read and be sociable at the same time. Try to know dances ahead of time.*
9. *If you are a beginner, it is advisable to learn a few dances for your first social dances. Know these well and dance them with confidence. Try to avoid dances that are too difficult for you at present.*
10. *Mistakes can be made by the most experienced dancers. Keep calm and relaxed at all times. If the set breaks down for a few minutes, don't worry! It has happened many times before, and will again! Just wait, enjoy the music, and pick up the dance on the next repeat.*
11. *Experienced dancers are invaluable to beginners if they guide them helpfully. A subtle gesture, a simple word is all that is necessary. Beginners can be unnerved by too many instructions from too many sources.*
12. *Scottish Country Dancing is fun, and the best way to show this is to smile to every partner you meet in a set, whatever their level of dancing.*

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