

Suggestions for Club Callers

1. Aim to know your dances well enough that you can watch the dancers and just use your card as a reminder
2. Run through all the dances at home to ensure that the music is appropriate and that you can fit the dance to the music
3. Liaise with the band. Contact them in plenty of time if you wish for any specific music. For each dance, tell the band the music you will be requiring (eg 32 bar reel). Agree with the band a sign to let them know when you are calling the last time through a dance. Don't call a dance for too long.
4. It's a good idea to call an easy dance first. This relaxes everyone and gives dancers a gentle start to the evening. Circles or longways seem to work well as starter dances because everyone is involved

To help inexperienced dancers

5. Explain moves even if they seem obvious to you.
Walk the dance through enough times to ensure all dancers understand
Don't do walk through too fast.
Maybe think of using one set to demonstrate particular moves.
If appropriate, do the dance again to increase confidence or allow those sitting out to join in.
Consider choosing a particular move, or couple of moves, and incorporating them into several dances that you call that evening.
6. If you wish to call a more complicated dance tell the dancers and advise them that they could sit out and watch the first time through the dance. They can then join in the second time if they wish
7. Invite less experienced dancers to the top of the hall so that you can keep an eye on them and give extra help if needed
8. Remember that people are there to enjoy themselves as well as, hopefully, to learn to dance. Encouragement and good humour work wonders.
9. In return, of course, the dancers must be polite and forbearing to callers.