



August 2025

Wanted Poster

Wow! Didn't the Lionesses do our Nation proud!

Nail biting, edge of the seat stuff but they came through in the end! Well done ladies a magnificent achievement. (If only we could get the lads playing as well as you!) Meanwhile back in our land of line dancing, what news have we?

The first thing to mention is the school holidays and what impact it 'may' have on ours and other line dance classes.

The first thing to tell you is that we 'Don't' break (Usually) during the school holidays. Apart from being the most expensive time to take a holiday it is also the time when beaches, bars, and resorts are bursting at the seams.

Unfortunately there are some clubs which have to take a summer break. This is usually when a venue is linked to a school in some way, or the venue feels it is time to carry out some renovations.

If this happens it can be very disruptive in the continuity in teaching.

I should also mention that school holidays affect attendance in another way. Families taking their children on holiday rely on grandparents to provide that extra support. A high percentage of line dancers fall into the category of being grandparents and so go missing for a large part of the six week school break. It may be disruptive but it is all part and parcel of being a line dance teacher. (Wipe that tear away from your eye!)

A Lot Of Country

There does seem to a resurgence in the number of Country music events in the UK at the moment.

Recently there was a Country and Western weekend event taking place in St. Albans, however we in the South aren't as fortunate as those living 'Up North'.

(Please forgive this city boy terminology as anywhere North of Watford is unknown territory to me!)

Weekend festivals, Country music clubs, Country music line dance weekends and lots more seem to be in abundance if you live anywhere North of England.

If you are a Country music fan you cannot but feel envious of those who have so much choice.

I wonder if there is some historical reason for this. Why should there be so much of a connection to Country music North of England? Perhaps someone has an idea they could share with me.

My final words on the subject is that if you are travelling North for a holiday, check out what events are taking place near you. You could ask your teacher if he/she knows of any event or maybe check out 'Cross Country' the online magazine for events. (You may have to subscribe to get this information)

Let us know if you get to one.

Phrased Line Dances

Before I say another word can I say that my favourite phrased line dance is 'Walk Right Back'. AAAB, AAAB, AAAB, A

I love the music and the sentimentality in the words. However, when looking for a new dance to teach our hearts sink when we see written in the dance script. AAB, ABB, ABA, BBA, ABC (That was an exaggeration!) I wonder if other teachers feel the same way as us? The reason! They always seem to take an age to teach but more importantly we always wonder how long the dance will last!

Choreographing A Dance

This is not an easy thing to do and depending on the level of the dance is more difficult in line with the dance difficulty!

I confess I am not an expert in this field. I only have a limited knowledge of the rules and guidelines so stand to be corrected. Having told you that I wonder how many people, who decide to choreograph a dance, do so with no formal training.

What are the rules in choreographing a line dance? Do they, should they, adhere to the rules governing ballroom dancing?

I suspect that most experienced choreographers have had some sort of professional dance training. By having this knowledge they can apply it to a dance they are writing. Again I suspect this is why certain types of dance follow rules. (For the most part) This is my understanding but I could be wrong!

Most of our line dance Waltzes start with our left foot, why I hear you ask.

In ballroom Waltzes the man takes the lead by stepping forward on his left. You can see that anyone having professional training would follow this rule when choreographing a line dance.

The same principal would apply with a cha cha cha. The basic ballroom dance would start with the man taking a left foot lead. It follows that we line dancers do the same.

The Charleston is a bit more complex.

The basic Charleston starts by stepping forward with the left. However it can start by stepping forward on the right or by tapping left foot behind or by tapping right foot behind!!!! There are various methods/styles in the Charleston.

When writing a dance script the choreographer will specify what level of dancer it is aimed at. Lots of times this is done for a specific reason.

Lavinia wrote 'Strait Talkin' to introduce chasse steps to the improver dancer. (She also likes the George Strait song!)

I suspect that lots of Improver dances are designed to appeal to the once a week line dancer which will help make it popular. Some dances are quite rightly focused on providing a challenge to the more advanced dancer and are labelled as such.

Recently I have seen on some scripts the desire to include 'alternative' steps to increase the dance complexity. I'm not too sure that is the right approach.

If you follow that through you could write a beginner dance and keep giving alternative steps until you have an Intermediate or Advanced dance ie: 3 in 1!

Teachers when teaching any dance are able to give alternative 'easier' steps to dancers 'if required'.

My 'personal' view is that 'Chocolate' (Variations) is a dancer's personal choice not an alternative given by the choreographer.

If a choreographer feels it 'should be' included then why not write it that way.

My last word is that dance has always been innovative and free from constraints so maybe we should tear up any rule book!

The No 1 'rule' is 'Have Fun and Smile'!

Just thought I should give you something to think about during the summer!

Dance Taught In July

All The Small Things-

Choreo. By: Maggie Gallagher.

Music: All The Small Things by Tyler Rich

A really nice dance which is very well received in the classes.

Oldie Dance Revisited In July

Caught In The Act -

Choreo. By: Ann Wood in 2004

Music: Who's Been Sleeping In My Bed by Glenn Frey

Dance Like No One Is Watching

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PS: A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who signed the Parkinsons Charter Petition We hit the magic 100k signatures required!