

Lethbridge Scottish Country Dance Club 2017-2018

SCD Dance Etiquette

Scottish Country Dances typically require 4, 6, 8, or even 10 or 12 people to complete the dance pattern and so is a cooperative social activity.

Dancing with partners

- be sociable and dance with as many different people as possible, and typically only once with a given person in an evening
- newer dancers should partner with more-experienced dancers, rather than with another inexperienced dancer
- teachers love to dance, so feel free to ask a teacher to be your partner
- if there is an excess of one sex (usually women), take turns to dance as the other sex (usually as a man); being willing to dance as either sex increases the opportunity to dance and is the sociable thing to do
- at all times make eye contact with others in the set, especially your partner; not only is this sociable but you can receive helpful hints from others in the event of a memory lapse
- when waiting in a dance, stand upright with hands at sides and feet in first position with heels together ready to move (with any dance step or to step up/down as required)

Forming dance sets

- wait for the teacher or MC to announce that a dance activity is about to begin
- ask a partner to dance and come on to the floor together as a pair (or a trio etc., as indicated by the teacher or MC); do not come into a set unpartnered
- if other couples are already forming a set, additional couples always join at the bottom of the set below the last couple, not between people already in the set
- the couple at the top counts off the number of couples in the set and announces whether more couples are needed or if the set has too many couples; the teacher or MC will decide how to accommodate the number of couples available
- couples do not shift position within the set after the line has been counted off unless so asked by the teacher
- once in the set, remain with your partner in the set until the dance is completed; if necessary to leave the set while the dance is being taught, briefed, or danced alert your partner and the teacher in advance
- at the end of the dance, after the bow and curtsy, thank your partner and all the other people in the set, then leave the floor
- Scottish Country Dances differ greatly in the level of knowledge and expertise needed to complete the dance with minimal mistakes; teachers and MCs will provide guidance on the skill level needed for a given dance

If in doubt about anything, ask one of the teachers: Fiona Miller (Full Certificate 1978), Gail Michener (Full Certificate 1990), Peggy Rodzinyak (Preliminary Certificate 2017)