

## Tango Norfolk: **Notes for Class Helpers**

Thank you for agreeing to help in our tango classes. It's a measure of the health of the community that so many people are willing to give their time to raise the overall standard of dancing. The following should help you get the most out of the sessions.

1 The system works best if you use the lesson as an opportunity to revisit the basic skills of your own dancing. You can never go over the fundamentals too many times. Once you've achieved a certain proficiency it's easy to take them for granted. But the good leaders and followers are the ones who constantly work on the foundations.

Take it slowly, as if you're coming to the topic for the first time. Take nothing for granted. Work through the structure of the lesson at the pace the teachers determine. Aim to refine what you're doing. To make it better. Above all, don't think: "I know this, I can show my partner something more..."

2 You are a really valuable resource in these classes. What we are looking for you to provide is a stable presence so that less experienced dancers can better gauge their own leading and following. Obviously if there is something simple that is getting in the way then you can point it out. But if in doubt, hold back on the advice - the teachers will pick it up, if not immediately, then a little further down the line. It's genuinely confusing for students to be receiving advice from different quarters in a lesson.

3 Be guided by the teacher. Listen to what they are asking you to do. Don't ask for advice if something isn't working for you. Advice on your own dancing is available on request in your own lessons and at the practica. Teachers will still provide you with some input if they feel it would be useful.

4 You need to be sensitive to balance of paying participants and those like yourself who are volunteering. If a paying member of the group doesn't have a partner, please make yourself available.

The people who tend to get partnered up last after a change-over are often the weaker dancers. These are the people who will benefit most from your presence. So seek them out, please don't look to spend as much time as you can with the better dancers, tempting though it might be.

5 Inevitably there will be occasions when the class isn't balanced. It's impossible to predict who will turn up on the night. We need to make sure all paying students are partnered. You may need to spend some time observing or working on your own. Swop in with another volunteer when there is a change.

6 Finally, please mix in at coffee time. Volunteers can really help break the separation between different groups of dancers which is really valuable for the community as a whole and will pay dividends when beginners come to take their first steps into the scary world of the milongas.