



Waltzing with Matilda

Matilda Kumquat
% Dan Schweitzer

*Dear Matilda,
I'm a very skilled dancer and
would appreciate your advice on
helping fellow dancers.
- Skilled Helper*

Dear SH,
Personally, I recommend:

- Guide fellow dancers with running commentary. (Simply pointing in the right direction is far too subtle.)
- In the event of a crash, immediately explain what went wrong. (Granted, this may risk problems with subsequent calls, which leads to my next point.)
- Echo every call! (Most callers just aren't distinct enough to be heard over the floor chatter.)
- Always speak up, so other squares can benefit from your help.
- If you see another square out of position, call out corrections for them. (Callers especially appreciate this help.)

- M

*Dear Matilda,
At the start of a tip, the rush to the
floor can be confusing. What is the*

*proper way to square up?
- Confused at square up*

Dear CASU,
Remember, this is all about *your*
fun. With that in mind, effective
squaring up involves:

- Avert your eyes and quickly walk past any square having new dancers or strangers. (Why take a chance?).
- If you and your partner head in different directions, you'll end up with the chance to pick the best of two different squares.
- If you have enough friends to make a square, stay in one corner and always square up before anyone else can get in.
- OK, despite your best efforts, say you get stuck with a corner having less charm than your first Ex's lawyer. The best solution is to fake an ankle injury and limp to the snack table.

-M

*Dear Matilda,
Wow, square dancing is fun! Am I
expected to do anything?
- Ordinary Club Member*

Dear OCM,
Whoa, do you mean like helping
to clean up after dances,
organizing special events, or doing
paperwork? Nah, let the officers
do all that. After 10 years, they are
well compensated with plaques
and stuff. Keep a low profile. Best
to always arrive late and leave
early.

- M