

There has been a good deal of controversy aired both in the round dance press and where dancers congregate over some of the actions taken in the ROUNDALAB meeting last fall. I would like to share a few personal views on this controversy and the events that led to it.

Standardization is at best a thankless task, but the nature of any association or activity makes some degree of standardization essential. The more competitive the activity or the greater degree the activity affects the uninvolved, the more detailed the standards must be to insure fairness, quality, or safety. However, in non-competitive activities such as round dancing, standards must assume a different nature - of guiding rather than governing and of unifying rather than dividing.

It is unfortunate that despite all the good that the ROUNDALAB meeting generated, the position taken on dance style has been so divisive. In an effort to define, an opportunity to unite was lost. Hopefully, it isn't too late to seek that unity. I would recommend that ROUNDALAB recind this particular standard and look for ways to accomodate all styles of dancing currently in use. It will not be easy or painless to find this accomidation, but it can be done. Perhaps a resolution encouraging dancers to form in circles according to stride (after all a very tall couple using a glide step may easily out step a very short couple using heel leads) could be one idea, and I'm sure there are many others. At least the recinding of this item would, in itself, be a move toward unity and would clear the way for such accomidation. Above all, let's keep in mind the pleasure and fellowship that round dancing gives us all.

Till Fontana, take care and Happy Dancing.

Brent & Mickey Moore
