

Another (equally) important, necessary, and stabilizing step was taken as ROUNDALAB defined and voted its "official position" on the methods and techniques sanctioned for use by the membership in teaching Roundance Basics and Techniques. Because this was a potentially controversial question, full discussion and consideration was given all-points-of-view; first by the large Working Group (Standards & Terminology - some 150 plus participated) and eventually by the entire assembly. The end result was that the traditional R/D "ball of foot glide", and "chest/shoulder lead" were overwhelmingly preferred to the English Ballroom "heel to toe walking stride", and "waist/pelvic lead".

The Working Group and full assembly also voted that the traditional cue-designations of "Right and Left" be used in defining all "Turns" - in all rhythms - rather than the English Ballroom terminology "Natural and Reverse" turn, (exceptions were made for "Double Reverse" and "Double Natural"). They additionally approved "Back Turning Wing (to Bjo)" over "Reverse Corte"; and "Forward Turning Wing (to Bjo)" over "Cross Hesitation"; Likewise: "Telemark to SCP" and "Telemark to Bjo" over "Open and Closed" the English Terms for these figures. Several other English terms which have gained R/D acceptance such as Impetus (to SCP), Whisk, Chasse, etc. were approved and defined. It should be here noted that although the Working Group and full assembly votes were in each case unanimous (or nearly so - never more than 1 to 3 dissents) a spirit of compromise was evident throughout the proceedings; there were no attempts to "ram-rod" personal points of view thru against the majority opinion. In fact Standards Chairman (Turner) and Committee were on the losing side of the vote on more than one occasion; and even such respected advisors as Hamilton and Moss were at times on the "wrong" side of the vote. No rancor was evident as all worked for the common good of Roundancing.

The "Spirit" of "lets reason together" was again apparent when the question arose of how to best deal with the problem of excessive ballroom technique (and influence) in the R/D movement - in particular problems which occur when (1) there are substantial numbers of English Ballroom R/D devotees sharing a Roundance floor; and (2) relationship with fellow-teachers who introduce the English walking (heel/toe) stride - pelvic lead when teaching R/D Basics - even though such conduct is contrary to the Official RAL position! NOTE: Such (English) techniques can be disruptive of R/D floor manners and decorum unless modified to suit the situation; for example, the longer "English Stride" can cause a couple to "run-up-the-back" of the ones in front; darting "in-and-out" of the primary R/D circles can cause tripping, bumping and "stepping on" fellow dancers; and excessive styling and "kicks" etc. can distort the unity and beauty of the Roundance floor, and in instances actually endanger others. Even so, as the moderator Chairman, it seemed propitious to point out that a fairly substantial number of Roundancers and Teachers enjoy and are using the English Technique, and therefore we (RAL) should not strike a completely inflexible posture which would encourage a division (splinter group) within the R/D movement. To this end I suggested the following position: namely should a R/D Leader instruct any form of dance other than with Official Standardised & Approved Roundance Basics & Techniques, he would promptly so state and explain that it was a "deviation" from the approved Roundance System; and caution that its application on a Roundance floor should always be adapted and modified to conform with Roundance "spacing", comfort and decorum. The motion was made and carried unanimously in both the Working Group and full assembly votes!

It seems evident that with a little "give and take", we can all enjoy together the multifaceted pleasures of Roundancing, and keep it sufficiently flexible so that its future course and development is a matter of satisfaction to all.