

SOLUTIONS TO VARIOUS PROBLEMS, PART 1.0

Session brats

Keep a baseball (or hurley) bat close by. As soon as one of these unspeakable Spawn of Lucifer launches into a WTWKPTF (= weird tune, weird key, played too fast) hit him/her smartly upside the head with your Dissuader of Choice. Use sufficient force to get your point across but not enough (at least initially) to cause serious injury or death. May be accompanied by gentle verbal reminders such as "I don't think you should do that again" or (in California) "It really hurt me to have to smack you like that." Smile a lot as you say this. (For those concerned with the legal aspect of such activity, most jurisdictions in the USA recognize this as "totally justifiable assault" subject to no penalties whatsoever.)

Shouts of Encouragement

These of course vary from social group to social group and range from inarticulate grunts to more complex vocalizations such as "Kuvoiniemessa kapuni-enaaurissa!" heard recently at a pub session in Uusikaupunki in Finland. (Rough translation: "Neat stuff!")

"Give it stick, infidel dog and son of dogs" is approved encouragement in much of the Islamic world, while Japanese musicians will occasionally hear "Mutabe wakarimasen isominashita, desu-ka!" in the middle of the Coleman reel set (translation is roughly "May the spirits of ten thousand deceased Sligo fiddlers view your efforts with kindness"). By the way, the traditional "Banzai" is now viewed as somewhat nationalistic and is used only among bodhrán players.

"Ooohhh....ahhhh....again....more....ooh....yes...." was recently reported to the Zouki Encouragement Hotline by a fiddler whose session had recently relocated from Stinky's Irish Rose Pub and Pizzeria to the Love Mountain Honey-moon Resort near Lake Tahoe. "The encouragement was there, all right," he reported, "even though we hadn't started to play or even take out instruments out. Oddly enough we didn't hear it again, but maybe that's because we started the session with 'The Butterfly' "...

Further developments to follow.

