



September Interviews

Interviewee: Sous

Capacity: Club Leader

Hello Sous, how are you today?

I am doing okay!

We are here to interview you as part of club leadership for Dance Club.

To start off, could you please introduce yourself?

Hello! My name is Sous. I am the leader of Dance Club. Thank you for interviewing me and picking our club as Club of the Month.

Would you like to introduce your leadership team as well, please?

Yes, of course! For our co-leader, we have our lovely Sol, who recently joined our leadership. This is her second month as the co-leader and she is doing amazingly well and I am very thankful for her. As for our secretary, the amazing Namu, she has been a great help when we were searching for another co-leader. Everyone is amazing, I do not know what I would do without them.

Could you give us a general overview of the club? What have you guys been doing since you started?

First off, I am not the original leader of this club, there was another leader who unfortunately left the server. But we basically do what this club has been



doing since the beginning; we collectively vote on multiple K-Pop choreographies that we want to learn, then spin the wheel to pick one among the seven most voted options and learn the chorus and pre-chorus of that choreography. However, if time permits, we also go over other parts of the choreography. When I eventually became the leader, I started to incorporate different dance styles, techniques, history, etc. I then rotated these topics with the choreography. Recently, I have run out of dance styles to review so as a club we have been going over choreographies until I find something else we can do with the members. This is a basic overview of what we do in Dance Club.

How do you feel about dance?

I myself am not much of a dancer and it was a chance that I became the leader of this club but I believe; dance is a good form of exercise and it is a relatively fun thing to teach people. It is also a good excuse to learn more dances as well. And this club has taught me a lot; I began to learn dances quicker and better as each month goes by, which makes it very fun. It is really an interesting activity and I am enjoying being the leader so far.

You said you're not much of a dancer, so when did you decide to take over leadership and start dancing?

I joined Dance Club when it just started and helped out as a co-leader at first because no one else volunteered and I did not want to leave the leader by themselves. I; then; eventually became the leader when they left. Originally, I was just interested in dance and it was a chance for me to learn more



choreographies, so when the responsibility of leadership was thrust upon me, I decided to carry on the previous leader's ideas for the club.

How long does it take you to learn a dance?

It depends on the choreography we are learning. For example, this month we are doing Domino by Stray Kids and it is significantly more difficult than any other choreographies we have done. It took me around 3 days to learn it. I learnt the choreography in sections. First, I learned the pre-chorus, then the first half of the chorus, and lastly, the second half of the chorus. I would say it took me a day to learn these moves but practicing and perfecting them took me around 3 days. It is a slow process; the completion goes from 50% to 75% to 100%. For other songs with easier choreographies, it takes less time and is very easy to pick up moves.

You mentioned how Domino is a harder song; have you ever reached a point where a step is hard for you to grasp? If so, how do you overcome this?

Yes, all the time! There is this particular move in the choreography, a “step back”, which is hard for me to grasp. I have been practicing, sometimes I get it and sometimes I do not. I try my very best to teach the club, but if I can not, I inform them that it was a difficult move for me and, in-place of my lesson, I would instead send them a tutorial video if they want to learn it. There is always that “move” that looks wrong when I do it.

How long has the club been active?

I believe it's been a year, starting around last May. I took over leadership about 5 months ago.



How has your experience been as the leader of the club?

It has been great. All of the members are really kind, they are all very invested in learning. Although, there are fewer members in the club than we had originally. Because of this, there are times when some meetings get canceled for lack of attendance. Other than that, it has been a fun experience. Dance Club has helped me come out of my shell and has aided me in speaking in front of people. I hope I can do this for a long time.

What is the best part about being a part of the club leadership?

In my opinion, I think the best part is being able to see some of the members who are not dancers, just like me, become more confident and try harder choreographies. It is motivating to see them getting better each month. And considering that we are doing Domino this month, just seeing them try and have fun learning it; is so worth it. I personally like the aspect of watching their efforts pay off through assignment videos.

What are some of the challenges you have faced while being part of the leadership?

I would say there has been a challenge with hosting since I have run into a scheduling conflict due to school. One time, I was unable to host the meeting because I had a class in the morning, so I had to hand it over to Sol last-minute. We are working to fix the times to avoid that conflict, and to also hopefully come up with a more convenient time for other members to join the club. Apart from that, coming up with new materials for Dance Club is hard as well because there is only so much one can do virtually.



Scheduling is pretty unpredictable, so how have you overcome these challenges?

We have tried to change the meeting times a couple of times. When we first started, we had meetings on Monday at 2 AM KST; this has been the same since it works for most people. We then created a second meeting time to accommodate our members from the Philippines, however; most of them have either left the server or left the club. That meant we had to change the times again. Now, I have been planning to post a poll which states the times when most of the members are free. If I see members consistently attending a meeting then I work along with those times, but if there is a lack of attendance and nobody shows up, I try to change those times. There is a lot of back-and-forth between time zones and availability; finding the best time is trial and error.

How does your leadership team operate? Do you guys divide tasks among yourselves?

Dance Club's main task is to learn choreography. Sol and I learn the choreography since she is the one who takes over when I can-not host a meeting. Then, Namu, as a secretary, works with everything secretary-wise, such as making sure the attendance sheet is updated. In regards to assignments, we do not discuss much about them because the assignment is always about members recording themselves performing the choreographies we have taught. Although, if we are doing different dance styles, I ask leadership what kind of assignment would be suitable. I believe that is how we operate. We communicate very well, we have our separate group chat where we discuss everything club-related or not.



What's your opinion on the club and how do you think you can improve it?

The club itself is really fun. Perhaps, I am a little biased because I am the leader and want to encourage people to come and join, but I really like this club because it pushes people to challenge themselves and do something they may not be used to doing. For example, during meetings they can turn their cameras on and dance together with us. I know the club is not perfect, so we are working on ways to improve this club by creating more materials; and by making meetings more interactive.

What are your goals for the club and what do you look forward to doing in the future?

The goal of the club is to create a safe space for members to have fun while learning these choreographies, and to teach them technical aspects of dance at the same time. Like I mentioned before, we also have a goal of diversifying each month with topics other than choreography, so members can benefit more from our club and our meetings.

There have previously been collaborations between clubs on this server. Has your club ever had a collaboration?

Not yet, but we were thinking of having a collaboration with K-Entertainment Club since Sol is the leader of that club. But since K-Entertainment is fairly new, we are waiting for that club to establish itself first and build the foundation that it needs, before we collaborate.

How are meetings held?



Members join the meeting channel and I turn my camera on for them, so they are able to see me teach the dance. I then encourage members to have their cameras on so it can be an interactive session, as it is more fun to see and dance with each other than privately where I can't see them. I later teach them whichever choreography we are doing for that month. Without music, I teach one or two parts of the song; the pre-chorus or chorus. We then practice the dance with music. In the last 5 to 10 minutes of the meeting, we wind down to sit and chat about anything - K-Pop related or not.

How do you decide which dance you will cover for the month? Is it based on members' suggestions?

Yes, we base the dance on members' suggestions. At the end of each month, I ask members which songs they want to learn in the upcoming month. They often give me numerous suggestions that we can't narrow down with a simple poll. So instead, I take all of the suggestions and put them in a spin-the-wheel and let the bot randomly pick seven songs. With that narrowed-down selection, we create a poll and choose the most voted song from that.

In regards to assignments, how do you try to make them different and unique?

I don't think our assignments are that different or unique. The assignments are pretty much the same every month: members recording themselves doing the dance we learned that month. Some of them turn in their assignment to me via DM, because I know some of them may not be very comfortable sending it in the fun club assignment channel where everyone



can see. As they get turned in, I inform Namu which members have submitted their assignment. I am trying to come up with new assignments but the virtual aspect of these meetings makes it difficult to be more creative.

You mentioned that members can DM their video if they are uncomfortable; what do you do if a member is uncomfortable recording themselves entirely? Is there an alternative?

Unfortunately, no. In Dance eClub, the most important aspect of the meetings is the choreographies we have been learning. If they are uncomfortable with showing their face, I suggest wearing a mask or hat, which is what many members have done previously during meetings or for their assignments. In terms of not recording themselves at all, it is hard to cater to that. The only exception is if they have had an injury or similar cases, only then I will come up with an alternative, like a mini assignment, which they have to do.

And do you provide feedback for these assignments?

I don't really give feedback because the main purpose of the assignments is for members to have fun. I do not expect members to dance these moves perfectly, but if they do, then that is great! But it is not necessary; - I make mistakes and I mess up myself, so I am not one to judge a member's ability. Although, I think giving feedback can be encouraging; this may be another goal for the club to work towards.

Lastly, would you recommend joining the club? If so, why?



I would recommend this club to server members since it is a fun club where you get to learn different dances and dance styles from a variety of groups. It is also a great way to discover a new K-Pop group that they may like, and expand their music library. And who knows? Someone on the street might randomly challenge them to a dance duel, so what better way to prepare for that than joining our club?

Thank you for attending the interview Sous!

