

DOs AND DON'Ts FROM TV'S TOP FRENCH LOVE GURU

By **KARA DOLMAN**

DATING is a tricky game – especially when you don't know the rules.

One man fell foul of the basic guidelines this week when he **BILLED** his date for half the cost of their night out – because she did not fancy a second date.

Londoner Lucy Brown, 38, left, was shocked when the guy from dating website Plenty Of Fish texted her demanding she cough up and giving details of his bank account.

He wrote: "I really fancied you and saved up some money to take you on a nice date..."

"I'd be grateful if you could send along something to contribute for the drinks I spent on you thinking I'd at least get to see you again. The total cost of the night was £85."

Fashion designer Lucy duly sent him £42.50 and donated the same amount to a donkey sanctuary.

She said she had "never laughed so hard" about the unfortunate end to their night spent drinking Jagerbombs in a Clapham pub.

But just what is the etiquette of modern-day dating?

One man who knows is maitre d' turned love guru Fred Sirieix, who oversees Channel 4's First Dates at his restaurant in central London.

Fred, who has written a book on the subject, says: "So many things can go wrong in dating these days. It's more difficult than ever."

"That's not because we are meeting more unsavoury types, but because modern technology means we have more choice than ever – and that's not necessarily a good thing."

"I know people who have gone on 100 first dates, but no second or third dates. The key to finding lasting love is getting that first one right. You can't become a karate master overnight, but this is my guide to get you on your way."

Here, Fred shares his top dating Dos and Don'ts...

DO BE HONEST
When you post pictures and describe yourself on dating sites, they have to be true to what and who you are – there is no point in lying.

Similarly, while you can be open-minded about your date, you have to be compatible. If someone isn't what you envisioned of course be kind, be sweet, but don't kid yourself.

DO THE ASKING, EVEN IF YOU'RE A WOMAN

By and large I think women do like to be asked out. But it is 2017 so if women want to take the reins, then that is wonderful.

I recently met a few couples where the women had done all the legwork when they first started dating – nothing wrong with that.

DO DRESS TO IMPRESS

You need to look and feel your best so pick clothes which are going to help you feel confident. They can be sexy, they can be casual, whatever you like, but always look clean. Iron your shirt or dress, polish shoes – these are the basics people don't always think of.

And **NEVER** wear dirty clothes – you shouldn't look like you've come from a building site. Perfume or aftershave is good, but not too much, just a spritz to create a little aura.

DON'T TALK TOO MUCH ABOUT YOURSELF

Conversation, especially on a first date, is a two-way

you can always make amends later. I think of it like dealing with someone who has made a complaint in the restaurant – first acknowledge the mistake, apologise for it then ask to start again.

Try saying something like: "Forgive me, I did not greet you well because I was a little nervous." Turn your

nothing better than sharing plates, because it's all about that intimacy.

DO HAVE A DRINK, BUT NOT TOO MUCH!

Alcohol helps to relax you, it helps you feel cool. It's good to have a couple of glasses of wine for Dutch courage but don't drink so

People aren't mind-readers so little acts of kindness such as opening a door or holding out a chair show who you are as a person. As Shakespeare said: "Action is eloquence."

DO FLIRT

Lots of people get scared by the prospect of flirting,

sure that you are clear on this from the start.

If you can't agree on something as simple as this on the first date then you are in trouble.

DO HAVE A SNOG (AT THE VERY LEAST)

Kiss! I never hold back

your date, you shouldn't play games by waiting to get in touch. And besides, they are not a friend, you didn't go out as friends – so just go for it. A simple line telling them that you had a great time and can't wait to see them again should do the trick. Adding a kiss on the end of a text shows you like them.

things can't go further romantically but thank you for a great time. I wish you all the best. Fred X"

DON'T REVEAL TOO MUCH TOO SOON

The more dates you go on, the more you can reveal about yourself. But on early dates some things should remain on a need-to-

Look good, be honest, flirt a bit, snog...but avoid getting legless

How to make a first date Fred hot



MOVE OVER, CUPID... First Dates' Fred Sirieix

ONLY RULE IS HAVE FUN

TINDERELLA, The Sun's dating columnist has this advice...

"Think that dos and don'ts are the key to finding love? Do one. This is not Fight Club (it just feels that way sometimes) and there are NO rules."

"These days people hook up and split up in the blink of an eye, thanks to the unprecedented choice and freedom of apps like Tinder. So telling them how to bag The One with a list of set behaviours seems hopelessly old-fashioned."

"The key is just to have fun and do what works for YOU. My only tips? Don't sext an ex, never lie and be kind to everyone even if you don't fancy them (karma, yes?)."

● Don't miss Fabulous Daily in tomorrow's Sun for Tinderella's latest adventures.

ROMANCE ON SKIDS

WHEN the rules of dating are broken it can all go very wrong, very fast. These people should have read Fred's guide...

Romantic Phil Stephenson, 22, took things far too fast when he whisked a girl he had only just met on Tinder to Turkey for their first date.

Unfortunately they were caught up in a military coup.

Stuck in their hotel room, things soon turned sour and Phil, left, did a runner and flew home – leaving the girl with a £60 bar bill.

Show-off Martin Taylor from Belfast necked 11 pints and nine Jagerbombs on a date, then insisted on going bowling.

The video his date took of him drunkenly tripping over the rails, launching his ball down the wrong lane and falling flat on his face went viral last week.

Made In Chelsea's Stephanie Pratt revealed she was on a first date with a guy in LA, she left a \$100 bill on the bar for drinks while she went to the loo – and when she returned he'd nicked the change.

Twitter user Makela, right, from Toronto calling herself @blotty shared the story of her most disastrous date last March. She revealed that she used her date's toilet but panicked when her poo would not flush away, so she fished it out and left with it in her handbag.

And a snap of a couple dining in the Olive Garden, North Carolina, went viral in 2013 after the man, below, apparently furious with his companion, built a fort out of menus as a barricade to hide behind.

