

BHS Branch

9 Dances for 2015

RSCDS Berks / Hants / Surrey Border Branch

www.rscds-bhs.org.uk

In 2013 RSCDS Berks., Hants., Surrey Border Branch held a local competition to choose a dance to submit to the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society for their worldwide competition to select dances for publication in RSCDS Book 49. Our local winner was chosen for inclusion in RSCDS Book 49.

We had 10 entries for our local competition and we feel that all the other dances are worthy of publication, hence this collection of dances

BHS Branch 9 for 2015

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Abbotsleigh

40-bar jig (in 10-bar phrases) for three couples in a four-couple longwise set
Suggested recorded music: The Wee Cooper of Fife played by Deirdre Adamson

Bars

- 1-10** 1st man and 2nd man, giving left hands, and 1st woman and 2nd woman, giving right hands, turn halfway to change places. 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance set and link. Half reels of three across the dance, 1st man giving right shoulder to 3rd man and 1st woman giving right shoulder to 2nd woman, and 1st couple dancing to second place on the opposite side. Finish in the order 312 on the opposite side.
- 11-20** 1st couple lead down with left hands for 4 steps. 1st man (dancing down) turns his partner under his left arm and 1st couple lead up to the top of the set and face out. 3rd couple step down on bars 19-20.
- 21-30** 1st man and 3rd woman, giving left hands, and 1st woman and 3rd man giving right hands, turn halfway to change places. 3rd, 1st and 2nd couples dance a half mirror reel on the sides (1st couple dance in and down to begin). All set to partner, then 2nd and 3rd couples cross left hands as 1st couple turn left hand to face 4th corner position.
- 31-40** 1st couple dance Hello & Goodbye setting for 6 steps to second place on opposite side. 1st couple birl for 4 steps. At the end of the first time, 1st couple finish in the centre in second place nearer hands joined facing up. At the end of the second time, 1st couple finish in the centre in third place nearer hands joined and they dance bars 1-2, half turning the couple below them to finish in fourth place as the new couple begins.

Repeat having passed a couple.

The aim was to create a dance which gave the lead pair lots of opportunity for covering and synchronisation, culminating in the final birl at the end of "Hello-Goodbye" setting. J Johnston's dances in Minicrib provided the seed crystals from which this dance was developed, and my delight in them, the inspiration.

Bardill/Prince 2013 Dances

Tapadh leibh

32-bar strathspey for three couples in a three-couple longwise set

Bars

- 1- 4** 1st couple set and cast to second place. 2nd couple step up on bars 3-4.
- 5- 8** 1st couple giving right hands to 1st corners, turn once round to finish back-to-back facing 1st corners.
- 9-12** 1st couple and 1st corners dance a half reel of 4. 1st couple pass left shoulder to face 2nd corners.
- 13-16** 1st couple and 2nd corners dance a half reel of 4. 1st couple give left hands to turn three-quarters in the centre of the dance.
- 17-20** 1st woman dances right hands across with 3rd couple while 1st man dances right hands across with 2nd couple. 1st couple finish left shoulder to left shoulder in the centre of the dance.
- 21-24** 1st couple petronella out to the side lines in second place on opposite sides. All couples give nearer hands on the sides and set.
- 25-28** All couples giving right hand to their partners, turn halfway to finish closely together facing them in the centre of the dance, then pull back their right shoulders and curve out to own sides.
- 29-32** 1st and 2nd couples dance right hands across once round.

Repeat twice from new positions.

This dance is dedicated to all those who helped the deviser when studying for his certificate. There were many stooges who gave so freely of their time over several weeks and other volunteers who made sure there was always enough tea and coffee (and the occasional cake). Special thanks go to our musicians Keith Anderson and Judith Muir and our teacher Mervyn Short. 'Tapadh leibh' (pronounced tapah leyv) means thank you in Scottish Gaelic.

John Fletcher

The Union of the Crowns Reel

32-bar reel for three couples in a four-couple longwise set

Bars

- 1-8** 1st couple set, then giving right hands turn halfway round to face down, changing to nearer hands dance down to below 3rd couple and cast up into second place on the opposite side. 2nd couple step up on bars 5-6.
- 9-16** 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance reels of three on the side-lines. To begin 1st man and 2nd woman pass right shoulder and 1st woman and 2nd man pass left shoulder. 1st couple finish in second place on the opposite side. 2nd and 3rd couples dance the long turn into place at the end of the reel.
- 17-20** 1st couple dance a petronella turn to finish 1st man between 2nd couple facing down and 1st woman between 3rd couple facing up, and 1st couple set to each other.
- 21-24** 1st couple, giving right hand, change places and cast to second place on own sides, 1st man right shoulder round 3rd man and 1st woman right shoulder round 2nd woman.
- 25-32** 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance six hands round and back.

Repeat having passed a couple.

The Union of the Crowns (March 1603) was the accession of James VI, King of Scots, to the thrones of England and Ireland, and the consequential unification of Scotland with both realms under a single monarch.

Mervyn Short

Lohcarron Loom

32-bar jig for four couples in a four-couple longwise set

Bars

- 1–8** 1st couple dance down (nearer hands joined) for 4 bars. On bar 5, 1st woman dances under her partner's arm (1st man dances below his partner) and 1st couple dance up to second place and face out (2nd couple step up on bars 5-6).
- 9-12** 1st couple cast to third place (3rd couple step up on bars 9-10) and cross giving right hands, facing out in third place on their own side of the dance while 2nd couple dance down (nearer hands joined) for 4 bars – 2nd couple pass beyond third place before 1st couple cross.
- 13–16** 1st couple cast behind 4th couple and lead up (following 2nd couple), with left hands joined, almost to second place but stay in the centre of the dance facing up while 2nd woman dances under her partner's arm (2nd man dances below his partner) and 2nd couple dance up to second place and face out (3rd couple step up to first place on bars 13-14). [Bars 9-16 for 2nd couple are the same as bars 1-8 for 1st couple].
- 17-24** 1st couple dance a double figure of eight with 3rd couple, 1st man passing his partner in front of him to begin and 3rd couple casting to second place to begin. At the end of the figure 1st couple dance in to take nearer hands facing down in the middle in second place, and 3rd couple finish in first place facing out while 2nd couple cast to third place (4th couple do not step up), cross giving right hands, cast below 4th couple and dance up with nearer hands joined as far as third place, staying in the middle facing up. [Bars 17-24 for 2nd couple are almost the same as bars 9-16 for 1st couple].
- 25-32** 3rd couple cast down as 4th couple cast up while 1st couple dance under an arch made by 2nd couple; all turn for 4 bars – 1st man & 4th man and 2nd woman & 3rd woman turn one-and-a-quarter times with right hands, and 1st woman & 4th woman and 2nd man & 3rd man turn one-and-a-quarter times with left hands to finish on the sides in the order 2341; all set facing partners on bars 31-32.

Repeat 3 more times

Lohcarron Loom is devised to depict the weaving of tartan cloth.

Paul Plummer

The Golden Annings

40-bar strathspey for three couples in a three-couple longwise set

Bars

- 1-8** 1st couple dance reflection reels with 2nd and 3rd couples, 1st couple dancing in and down to start, giving hands where possible. 1st couple finish in the centre in top place with nearer hands joined facing down. 3rd couple finish in the centre in third place with nearer hands joined facing up.
- 9-12** 1st and 3rd couples set and link while 2nd couple cross giving right hands and set.
- 13-16** Facing clockwise, all chase half way round the set to finish as at the end of bar 8 with 1st and 3rd couples having changed places.
- 17-24** Repeat bars 9-16 to finish as at the end of bar 8.
- 25-28** All set, all advance to form a circle, joining hands on bar 28.
- 29-32** 1st and 3rd couples drop partners' hands as all retire to own sidelines and set.
- 33-36** 1st woman changes places with 2nd woman giving left hands and then with 3rd woman giving right hands while 1st man changes places with 2nd man giving right hands and then with 3rd man giving left hands.
- 37-40** All 3 couples turn with both hands. Finish 2,3,1
Repeat from new places.

Catherine Smith

Triggs Lock

40-bar reel for three couples in a four-couple longwise set

Bars

1-4 Taking nearer hands on the sides, 1st, 2nd and 3rd couples set and cross right hand. 1st couple finish facing out on the opposite side.

5-8 1st couple cast to second place as 2nd couple step up on bars 5-6, then 1st couple turn by the right hand to face out on the opposite side in second place.

9-16 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance 'chaperoned chain progression':

Bars Description

9-10 1st couple cast to their right and dance clockwise a quarter of the way around the set while 2nd and 3rd couples, giving right hands, turn partners three-quarters to end in a line in the centre of the set.

11-14 3rd man and 2nd woman, giving left hands, turn in the centre one and a half times to change places while 1st woman with 2nd man and 1st man with 3rd woman, taking promenade hold, dance halfway round the set clockwise to change ends. Note that 1st woman is on the left of 2nd man.

15-16 Releasing hands, 1st couple continue to dance clockwise around the set to second place on opposite sides while 3rd and 2nd couples, giving right hands, turn three-quarters to opposite sides. 3rd couple finish in second place, 2nd couple finish in third place. 1st couple finish right hand in right hand in the centre, 1st man taking left hand with 2nd man and 1st woman taking left hand with 3rd woman to form a diagonal line.

17-24 1st couple dance a spoke, moving clockwise and retaining right hands throughout:

Bars Description

17-18 1st couple with 3rd woman and 2nd man balance in line then move on clockwise to next corners.

19-20 1st couple with 3rd man and 2nd woman balance in line then move on clockwise to next corners.

21-22 1st couple with 3rd woman and 2nd man balance in line then move on clockwise to next corners.

23-24 1st couple with 3rd man and 2nd woman balance in line then move clockwise to second place on opposite side, ending with 1st man facing down and 1st woman facing up.

All three couples set for all eight bars. The corners set facing diagonally across the set when hands are not joined to form a diagonal line.

25-32 3rd, 1st and 2nd couples dance reels of three on the side. To begin, 1st woman gives left shoulder to 3rd woman and 1st man gives left shoulder to 2nd man. 1st couple finish in second place on opposite side.

33-40 3rd, 1st and 2nd couples dance set and link twice (to finish in the order 2,1,3, all on own sides).

Repeat, having passed a couple.

The dance was inspired following a relaxing stroll along the Wey Navigation in the area of Triggs Lock, which is near Send in Surrey. The dance brings 'chaperoned chain progression' (Tim Wilson) into reel time, while also including several well-known standard figures.

Peter Loveland July 2013

Ambidextrous

32-bar jig for three couples in a four-couple longwise set

Bars

- 1-6** 1st and 2nd couples dance three quarters of a double figure of eight. To begin, 1st couple dance down the sides as 2nd couple cross up.
- 7-8** 2nd couple set. At the same time 1st couple, giving left hands, turn three quarters to finish back to back in the middle of the set, 1st woman facing up and 1st man facing down.
- 9-16** 1st couple dance double triangles up and down the set with 2nd and 3rd couples. On bars 11-12, 2nd and 3rd men, and 2nd and 3rd women, giving right hands, change places on the sides. On bars 15-16, 1st couple dance petronella turns to finish in second place on opposite sides.
- 17-20** 1st couple dance half rights and lefts on the diagonal. To begin, 1st man gives right hand to 3rd man (in first place) and 1st woman gives right hand to 2nd woman (in third place).
- 21-24** 1st couple dance half rights and lefts on the diagonal. To begin, 1st man gives right hand to 3rd woman and 1st woman gives right hand to 2nd man. Finish in order 2,1,3, all on opposite sides.
- 25-32** 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance six hands round and back.

Repeat, having passed a couple, with genders temporarily re-assigned*.

As each couple begin their second turn of the dance, on bars 5-8 the new 3rd couple, and also the standing couple at the top of the set, giving right hands to partners, change places and set.

*Note: on bars 1-6 of the repeat, the original men (now dancing as women) should cross in front of their partners.

Dedicated to all those ladies who frequently have to dance as men.

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ALISTER MACLEAY

32-bar strathspey for four couples in a four-couple longwise set

Two chords. On the second chord 3rd and 4th couples change places with partners.

Bars

1-4 All dance eight hands half way round to the left.

5-8 All joining hands on the side, set and cross over giving right hands to partners.

9-12 Repeat bars 1-4.

13-16 All joining hands on the sides, set and cross over giving right hands to partners, finishing in allemande hold, 1st and 2nd couples facing up, and 3rd and 4th couples facing down.

17-24 1st and 2nd couples (beginning by dancing upwards) and 4th and 3rd couples (beginning by dancing downwards), dance interlocking allemandes. On bars 19-20, 1st and 4th couples dance past each other on the sides, then complete the allemandes, so that the finishing order is 2,4,1,3 with 4th and 3rd couples on opposite sides.

25-28 4th and 1st couples dance right hands across.

29-32 4th couple dance a half figure of eight around 2nd couple, while 1st couple dance a half figure of eight around 3rd couple.

The finishing order is 2,4,1,3, with 1st and 3rd couples on opposite sides.

Repeat three times from new positions each time.

Devised in memory of the late Alister MacLeay, Life President of Tadley Scottish Country Dancers.

Susan M Johnston

THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS

32-bar reel for three couples in a four-couple longwise set
Suggested music: The Cameron Highlanders by J. Scott Skinner

Bars

- 1-8** 1st couple, giving right hands, turn and cast off one place, 2nd couple stepping up. 1st couple, giving right hands, turn three-quarters, then 1st woman turns 2nd man with left hand to finish facing down in second place on the opposite side while 1st man turns 3rd woman with left hand to finish facing up in second place on the opposite side.
- 9-12** 1st couple dance half reels of three on the opposite sides, 1st woman giving right shoulder to 3rd man to begin, 1st man giving right shoulder to 2nd woman to begin.
- 13-16** 1st man dances a half reel of three across with 3rd couple in top place, giving left shoulder to 3rd man to begin while 1st woman dances a half reel of three across with 2nd couple in third place, giving left shoulder to 2nd woman to begin. 1st couple finish back to back facing their partners' 2nd corner positions.
- 17-20** 1st couple dance round their partners' 2nd corner positions and cast to second place own side while 2nd and 3rd couples dance right hands across for 2 bars, stay in the centre facing in, pull right shoulder back and dance out to opposite corners.
- 21-24** 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples, giving right hands, turn once round.
- 25-32** 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance six hands round and back.

Margret Plummer