

TAS Autumn Workshop

Dancing Notes Book 53 (compiled by Margie Stevenson and Anne Thorn)

Abbreviations

TP = Teaching Point / (R) = Right/ (L) = Left/ P =Partner/ sh = shoulder/

SCD Dict = Scottish Country Dance Dictionary

Morning Session – Anne Robertson

1. Chased Lovers

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

Teaching Points

- Teach tandem reels first (NO changing the lead)
- Bar 16 - 1st couple should be in the middle spot *before* pulling back (R) shoulders
- Good phrasing is important and returning to the central position.
- Bars 16 & 24 - Corners dance straight into place after diagonal reel – no curving in!
- Bars 25-32 Corners Pass & Turn - corners move in then out smartly to let 1st couple reach 2nd corner (bar 28) and cross to own sides (bars 31-32)
- Remember eye contact and good handing in the turns.

The music refers to Lucy and Lyn trying to get their bag of drinks upstairs without hosts knowing but the clinking gave them away and the host offered them ice!

2. Something in the Air

A 32 bar strathspey for two couples in a four couple longwise set

Note Not a dance for those who have balance problems or dizziness issues.

Teaching Points

- Bars 9-12 The 1st woman and 2nd man turn with the left hand.
- They are the SAME dancers turning with the right hand to begin the Rose progression AND they need to change feet to enter the half poussette AND transition into the set and link.
- Bars 25-32 In the Rose progression those chasing must phrase carefully. Dancers should try to cover in the last 2 bars of the Rose Progression.

3. Portincaple Oak

A medley of 32 bar strathspey and 32 bar reel for four couples in a square set

Teaching Points

- Bars 1-8 In the ladies chain don't let the set drift when the men dance into the ladies chain.
- Bars 13-16 Make sure the left hand turn is strong to ensure each couple finishes side by side ready for the Schiehallion reel.
- Bars 17-24 In the Schiehallion reel every two bars everyone should be shoulder to shoulder and the centre of the set should be clear.

4. Elsbeth Gray's Reel

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

Teaching Points

Bars 1-16 straightforward – (not quite “The Sailor”)

Bars 17-24 2 x ½ diagonal chain movements

Bars 25-32 Variations of Set & Link & Petronella turn (skip change)

Note Busy dance – lots of turns (possible dizziness problems)

- Teach bars 17-24 first (the diagonal chain formation). Position 1st couple in second place opposite sides facing out. 1st couple should look slightly to their left. The path of the dancing couple is similar to that of a figure of 8 or dancing the man's path in a ladies chain.

Bars 17-20 1st diagonal chain – 1st L casts to her (L) & turns 2nd L (L) hands ½ way
While 1st M casts to his (L) & turns 3rd M (L) hands ½ way

1st cpl finish back in 2nd place on opposite side facing out

Bars 21-24 2nd diagonal chain- 1st L casts to her (R) & turns 3rd L (R) hands ½ way
While 1st M casts to his (R) & turns 2nd M (R) hands ½ way

i.e. 1st Cpl cast to their (L) and turn the person (L)

Then 1st Cpl cast to their (R) and turn the person (R)

Bars 17-18 1st L casts to her (L) *while* 1st M casts to his (L)
While 2nd L & 3rd M, (i.e. 2nd corners), turn (R) ¾ round

Bars 19-20 1st L turns 2nd L (L) ½ way
While 1st M turns 3rd M (L) ½ way

Bars 21-22 1st L casts to her (R) *while* 1st M casts to his (R)
While 2nd M & 3rd L, (i.e. 1st corners,) turn (L) ¾ round

Bars 23-24 Same as 19-20 but 1st L turns 3rd L (R) ½ way
While 1st M turns 2nd M (R) ½ way

TP The chains get out to the sides or lines across on every 2 bars

- Teach bars 25-32 next. This is a variation of a 3 couple set and link. The 1st couple dance a petronella curve using skip change of step. The 1st couple must dance into the middle of the set close to each other as the person, who was originally on their left, is following behind. Those on the left and right of the 1st couple dance as in a normal set and link.
- Teach 1-8 bars followed by bars 9-16 last. This is similar to “The Sailor.” 1st couple should cross down to finish on the sidelines. Set to 1st corner followed by a strong

right hand turn to finish in lines across the dance. 1st man with the 3s and 1st woman with the 2s dance reels of 3 across the dance giving right shoulder to first corners to begin.

5. The Orchards of Co. Armagh (See notes in SCD Dictionary)

A 32 bar strathspey for three couples in a three couple longwise set.

The shapes represent

- the surroundings of the Orchard
- the planting
- the inspecting of the trees
- going up the ladder to collect the fruit

Teaching Points

- Bars 1-6 ensure the chase is a square chase similar to Roxburgh Castle with two steps to each side.
- Bars 9-20 each half reel begins with the couple in the middle passing each other by the left.
 - 1) 1C & 3C $\frac{1}{2}$ R of 4 up and down the set. 1M & 3L pass (L) sh to slide back to back in middle facing opposite side.
 - 2) 1M, 3L & 2cpl $\frac{1}{2}$ R of 4 across the set. 1M & 3L pass (L) sh to slide back to back in middle to face partner up and down the set.
 - 3) 1C & 3C $\frac{1}{2}$ R of 4 up and down the set. 1M & 3L pass (L) sh to face partner up and down the set.
- Bars 25-32 Bottom 2 couples (2 & 1) dance up, cast and all turn.

TP Leading couple dance up for 1, cast for 1, dance down sides for 2

TP Don't come too close to partner

TP 2nd Couple have been standing for 8 bars. Others have been dancing and are ready so 2nd couple have to be alert and ready to dance up.
- Bars 29-32 all turn with two hands once round covering with each other.

Afternoon Session

Rachel Shankland

1. The Galloping Carousel

A 32 bar jig for four couples in a four couple longwise set.

This dance is suitable for beginners and intermediate dancers. The teacher should be aware that some dancers may feel dizzy.

2. Toast to the Mousies

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

3rd lady & 3rd man (4th place) continue dancing out, round and up slightly,
while 2nd lady & 2nd man (2nd place) continue dancing out, round and up slightly,
while 1st lady & 1st man (1st place) & 4th lady & 4th man (3rd place) continue
dancing down slightly to dance a (L) wheel with the other 2 ladies and a (R)
wheel with the other 2 men.

Bars 29-30 Let go hands, meet partner and:-

2nd cpl keep dancing up own sides to 1st place

3rd cpl keep dancing up own sides to 2nd place

4th cpl keep dancing down & cast up own sides to 3rd place

1st cpl keep dancing down & cast round to own sides 4th place

TP (Bars 25 – 32)

No rush up the sides but bearing in mind 1st cpl have to get down and round to 4th
place ready to set

Don't move too quickly before 1st bar of wheel – anticipate but not too much.

2nd & 3rd cpls take time in wheels

The 4s should not dance right down to 4th place but cut it short Finish 2341.

- Bars 33-34 Turn partner ONCE round quickly with 2 hands. (wee circle).
- Bars 35-36 2nd cpl with 3rd cpl and 4th cpl with 1st cpl 4 hands round (mini circle).
- Bars 37-40 8 hands round to finish 4,1,2,3 on sides (big circle). Careful phrasing is required in the circle round to the left.

4. Pinewoods Reel

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

Teaching Points

- Bars 1-8 Practise first couple cast. 1st woman need to get “off her mark” to ensure that she is ready to cross up in front of her partner on bar 3.
TP End of bar 6: the double figure of 8 3rd Couple have to be in the sidelines at the top ready to cast on bars 7 & 8 as 2s step up
7-8 If 2nd couple don't step up, 1st couple have nowhere to go.
- Bars 9-16 Practice petronella round a square. 1st couple need to stay close to each other in the middle of the set.
- Bars 17-24 1st couple should finish the half reel with the 1st woman between the 2s and 1st man between the 3s.

- Bars 25-30 six bar reel of 3.
- Bars 31-32 Full turn for 1st couple. 1st couple finish facing out at the end ready to begin the dance again.
- Be aware of the transition at end of second time through – 1st couple take nearer hands briefly to dance down to 4th place whilst 4th couple continue the loop of the reel casting into 3rd place.

5. Ysobel

A 32 bar strathspey for three couples in a four bar longwise set

In the original version of Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich, John Drewry said “The dance was called Ysobel until the publishing committee interfered with her!”

- Ysobel version – half reels of 4 are both (R) shouldered
Mrs S of F version – 1st half reel of 4 is (R) shouldered
2nd half reel of 4 is (L) shouldered
- Publishing committee also changed the last 8 bars of the dance
Ysobel version – set on bars 1 & 2 of the phrase
Mrs S of F version – set on bars 7 & 8 of the phrase
- The publishing committee also made the dance a Reel as they already had enough Strathspeys and changed the name to Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich!

For advanced dancers a medley could be attempted dancing Ysobel followed by Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich

Teaching Points

- Bars 9-16 like Miss Milligan’s Strathspey those at the top and bottom of the reels curve into place at the end of the reel.
- Bars 17-24 Give right shoulders to corners to enter both half diagonal reels of four.