Reels and Rainbows

The Gay Gordons

20th Anniversary Celebration Book



20
Scottish
Country Dances
devised by members
of the London, Manchester
and Edinburgh Gay Gordons groups

Published in 2025 by the London Gay Gordons group. Revision 1.2 (2026).



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As of 2026 a PDF of this book is now available at
https://my.strathspey.org/u/murrough/book/GayGordons20thAnniversary.pdf

The Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book

This book celebrates the 20th anniversary of the London Gay Gordons group which was launched by Daniel Capron in October 2005 with John Tyler as the original teacher.

Daniel and John had each been involved in Scottish Country Dancing for many years. They were also both part of the LGBT Ballroom and Latin dancing community which included a variety of gay friendly classes and regular social dances. Both of them had independently thought it would be a good idea if there was also an LGBT group for Scottish Country Dancing and had discussed it together. They each wanted the opportunity to dance with other men which was "not done" in the SCD world at the time.

The idea remained a dream for many years, but in 2005 Daniel decided to take action. The group was launched on 22 October 2005 at an opening ceilidh with live music. This was followed by a series of seven weekly classes and a social dance to recorded music. Most of the classes were taught by John Tyler who is an RSCDS qualified teacher with an inspirational style. The group became an immediate success and in two months grew from one set at the first class to three sets of regular dancers.

In summary, Daniel got the group off the ground and John made it fly!

In a similar spirit, Gay Gordons groups were also independently started in Manchester by David Taylor in 2008 - and in Edinburgh by Turan Ali in 2009 with Tim Bolton-Maggs as their first teacher. We are pleased to be able to include dances devised by both David and Tim, along with several devised by John Tyler and various members of the London group which is the main focus of this book.

After his initial organising impetus Daniel took a back seat and let others form a committee to run the group. John's dances here thank many of them. Others included Jimmy MacSweeney, James Pretlove, Jamie Walker and Roy Southall; the last two, and Cos Ahmet, taking on the teaching role after John left. Many of our members are represented both in photographs and their personal memories (see page 34).

The Gay Gordons have given demonstrations to the LGBT community in London, at the Harpenden Highland Games and many Pride events in the UK and abroad. We also started running residential events. Initially just weekends, but later full weeks at Laurieston Hall in Dumfries and Galloway, then shorter but more intense Monday-Friday events at Cober Hill near Scarborough.

Several of the more enthusiastic Gay Gordons dancers started dancing at other events in and around London. Most people were supportive. Many congratulated us on an all male Reel of the 51st Division. But a few eyebrows were raised at the sight of men dancing with each other and sadly a few people were quite hostile. Despite this we persisted, pairs of men refusing to be split up, and after a few years this was no longer an issue. The Gay Gordons groups are now an established part of the SCD scene.

In 2012 the RSCDS invited all three Gay Gordons groups to affiliate to the society and the most recent edition of the RSCDS etiquette guide explicitly states that anyone can ask to dance with whoever they wish on either side of the set.

So the initial aims of the founders of the Gay Gordons have been achieved - and we hope to continue dancing with everyone for many years to come.

Murrough Landon - on behalf of the London Gay Gordons

The Founders

Daniel Capron

Daniel started Scottish Country Dancing in 1972. Later, he was for decades one of the regular dancers at the St Columba's Monday Dancers in Pont St, London. He and John Tyler had discussed their long standing desire to have an LGBT friendly dance group where anyone could dance on either side. In the end it was Daniel who took the initiative to launch the group in 2005: finding a venue for classes, recruiting dancers, organising our first ceilidh and then handing everything over to John.

John Tyler

John was captivated by dance at a very early age and started Scottish Country Dancing at 9 years old. He soon gained his RSCDS teaching certificate. John was the founding teacher of the London Gay Gordons. His enthusiasm, warmth, inclusive teaching style and his own beautiful dancing quickly led to the success of the group. He devised many dances for the group and those in organisational roles.

The Contributors

Adam Bakker

Adam, originally from The Hague, danced as a teen, but thought he would never dance again - until he found the Gay Gordons. He has been a regular member ever since and has written several dances.

Tim Bolton-Maggs

Tim started dancing at school and then at Oxford. He later qualified as an RSCDS teacher. After living in Newcastle he moved to Edinburgh and was the first teacher of the Gay Gordons group there.

Adrian Garratt

Adrian joined the Gay Gordons in its early years. He quickly became a key member of the group and was the first to devise new dances. His interests have now moved to ballroom and latin dancing.

Maurice Gilbert Hughes

Maurice, also known as Gilbert, danced in Belfast and Nova Scotia. He joined the Gay Gordons while temporarily living in London. He published several tunes and dances in the book Further Ado.

Alan Ip

Alan, who is originally from Hong Kong, started dancing when he discovered the Gay Gordons. He has devised several dances and is one of the MCs at the Surbiton and District Caledonian Society.

Murrough Landon

Murrough was recruited to the first Gay Gordons class - but then moved to live in Geneva for a while. He recently passed the RSCDS teaching certificate and is now the main teacher of the London group.

David Taylor

Soon after he started dancing, David founded a Gay Gordons group in Manchester - before he learned about the similar group in London. He is keen to promote SCD within the LGBTQ+ community.

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Terminology

John Tyler, the first teacher of the Gay Gordons group, was always very keen that we use non-gendered terminology for the two sides of a longwise set. He proposed "Leaders" and "Followers" as commonly used in the same-sex Ballroom and Latin dance community. John is passionate about this, so uses these terms in the written descriptions of all his dances - only a fraction of which are published in this book.

We still use this terminology in our classes. However several of our other devisers preferred to use the more traditional labels when committing their dances to paper. We aim to encourage diversity and inclusiveness, while respecting personal choices, so this book has various terminologies and styles.

When forming a standard longwise set those dancing as "Leaders" or "Men" have their left shoulder to the band; those dancing as "Followers", "Women" or "Ladies" have their right shoulder to the band.

Afore Ye Go

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

Devised by John Tyler

Bars	*Description*
1-4	1st couple dance half a figure of eight down through 2nd couple finishing in 1st place on the opposite sides.
5-8	1st leader turns 2nd follower once round with the left hand while 1st follower turns 2nd leader once round with the right hand.
9-12	2nd couple dance half a figure of eight up through 1st couple finishing in 2nd place on the opposite sides.
13-16	1st leader turns 2nd leader once round with the right hand while 1st follower turns 2nd follower once round with the left hand.
17-20	1st and 2nd couples half turn their partner with the right hand then dance half right hands across.
21-24	1st and 2nd couples half turn their partner with the left hand then dance half left hands across.
25-28	1st and 2nd couples dance half rights and lefts ending in the order 2,1.
29-32	2nd and 1st couples turn their partner once round with the right hand.

Music

Up in the Air: Clashmadin Volume 1 (track 10) by Nicol McLaren and the Glencraig SDB.

John Tyler



right, leading a class in London



at Laurieston Hall in 2010

Arthur's Seat 2

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

Devised by John Tyler

For Arthur Govan, the piper.

Bars	*Description*
1-8	1st and 2nd couples dance set and link twice.
9-12	1st and 2nd couples dance right hands across.
13-16	2nd couple dance half a figure of eight up through 1st couple to end in 2nd place on the opposite sides.
17-24	1st and 2nd couples dance a Followers Chain (Right Hand Chain).
25-32	1st and 2nd couples dance a modified Bourrel: 1-4: 1st and 2nd leaders set advancing then turn three quarters with both hands to end back to back in the middle facing up and down whilst 1st and 2nd followers dance anticlockwise to face their partners up and down. 5-8: All set. Then 2nd couple turn three quarters left hand whilst 1st couple turn three quarters right hand to progressed positions on their own side.

Music

Calum's Road (Donald Shaw). This is the 2nd tune in Moranbank: A' the best fae Banffshire (track 9) by Colin Dewar and his Scottish Dance Band.



Arthur Govan (left) with husband Marc Weide (right)
after their wedding in Leiden (see also the dance Leiden Nuptials)

The Barrie Strathspey

A 32 bar strathspey for three couples in a longwise set

Devised by John Tyler

For Barrie Gabbott.

Bars	*Description*
1-4	2nd couple cross right hand and cast right shoulder round their 1st corner to end in lines of three across facing their 4th corner.
5-8	2nd couple each dance half a left shoulder reel of three across and finish facing each other up and down in the middle.
9-12	2nd couple cross up and down right hand and cast right shoulder round their 2nd corner position to end in 2nd place opposite side facing their 1st corner position.
13-16	2nd couple each dance half a left shoulder reel of three on the sides finishing in the order 3,2,1 on opposite sides.
17-24	All dance set and link for three couples twice to finish on their own sides in the order 1,2,3.
25-28	1st and 2nd couples cross right hand and retain hold to dance half right hands across.
29-32	1st and 3rd couples cross left hand and retain hold to dance half left hands across. Finish in the order 2,3,1.
	Repeat two more times.

Music

Elisabeth Hunter's Strathspey: 15 Social Dances (track 7) by Muriel Johnstone and her Band.



Barrie Gabbott and Cos Ahmet

at Laurieston Hall in 2014

Barrie organised most of our weeks at Laurieston and also taught some of our classes

The McTurk

A medley of 3x32 bars strathspey and 3x32 bars reel

for three couples in a longwise set

Devised by John Tyler

For Cos Ahmet.

Bars	*Description*
1-4	1st couple turn right hand and cast off one place as 2nd couple step up.
5-8	1st couple turn left hand to face their 1st corners.
9-16	The McTurk Movement: 1st couple and their 1st corners pass right shoulder and face on the diagonal. 1st couple and their 1st corners half turn right hand and face on the diagonal. 1st couple and their 1st corners dance half a right shoulder diagonal reel of four. 1st couple end passing left shoulder to face their 2nd corners.
17-24	1st couple repeat the McTurk Movement with their 2nd corners and end facing each other across the set in 2nd place. All are on the opposite side in the order 3,1,2.
25-28	1st couple turn right hand once round while 3rd and 2nd couples dance half way round clockwise to their own side.
29-32	2nd, 1st and 3rd couples set on the side. 1st couple cross down left hands to 3rd place on their own side as 3rd couple step up.
	Repeat twice from new places in strathspey time, then three more times in reel time.

Music

The Iona Cross: Special Requests Volume 2 (track 4) by The Colin Dewar Quartet.



Barrie Gabbott, Ashley Weller and Cos Ahmet

at Laurieston Hall in 2010

Cos was later our regular London class teacher for a while

Richard's Romp

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

Devised by John Tyler

For Richard Clarke.

Bars	*Description*
1-4	1st couple face 2nd couple and 3rd couple face up for half a right shoulder reel of three on the sides. The 1st follower stays facing out.
5-8	2nd and 3rd couples join hands and set. Then step down. Meanwhile 1st follower, chased by 1st leader, dances up behind the followers line and crosses over. 1st couple end in 1st place on the opposite side.
9-12	1st couple face 3rd couple and 2nd couple face up for half a left shoulder reel of three on the sides. The 1st follower stays facing out on the leaders side.
13-16	2nd and 3rd couples join hands and set. Then step down. Meanwhile 1st follower, chased by 1st leader, dances up behind the leaders line and crosses over. 1st couple end in 1st place on their own side.
17-20	1st and 2nd couples dance right hands across.
21-24	1st couple set and cast off one place as 2nd couple step up.
25-32	All three couples circle to the left, but on the 8th slip step release hands, twirl pulling left shoulder back and circle to the right.

Music

The Reels of Dunans: Three Hands Across (track 2) by Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band.



Richard Clarke

our treasurer for many years, long time organiser, committee member and also stand-in class teacher

The Robertson Rose

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

Devised by John Tyler

For Ashley Weller in memory of her grandmother known as Rose.

Bars	*Description*
1-8	1st, 2nd and 3rd couples dance a reel of three on the sides, 1st couple start right shoulder to 2nd couple.
9-12	1st and 2nd couples turn right hand one and a half times on the sides to change places.
13-16	1st and 3rd couples turn left hand once round to finish in the order 2,1,3. *In a three couple set turn one and a half to finish in the order 2,3,1.*
17-20	All three couples set advancing to face their partner, half turn right hand and twirl out to the opposite side.
21-24	All dance half way clockwise to their own side.
25-28	All three couples set advancing to face their partner, half turn left hand and twirl out to the opposite side.
29-32	All dance half way anticlockwise to their own side.

Music

As for Kilkenny Castle.



Ashley Weller

(2nd left, with Patrick Brunskill, Barrie Gabbott and Arthur Govan)

Ashley was an enthusiastic early member, serving on the committee and as stand-in teacher

The Brilliant Diamond

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

Devised by Adam Bakker

For Murrough Landon. This may be danced as a reel or a jig or a medley of both.

Bars	*Description*
1-8	"Diamond Progression:" 1-4: 1st man and 2nd lady chase half way round clockwise while their partners turn once round right hand. 5-8: All face inwards on the diagonal and petronella to end back-to-back into the centre of the set (up/down and across) and then petronella (clockwise) out to the next place.
9-16	"Rose Progression:" 9-10: Those on the 1st diagonal (2nd man and 1st lady) set while those on the second diagonal (1st man and 2nd lady) cross right hand. 11-16: 2nd man and 1st lady ½ turn right hand, twirl out to the opposite side and chase clockwise while 1st man and 2nd lady chase clockwise and then ½ turn right hand and twirl out to their own side. All end back in their original places.
17-24	1st and 2nd couples set and dance "La Baratte".
25-28	All chase counter clockwise halfway round.
29-32	1st couple birl.

Music

Reel tune: Jimmy Shand Junior (Jimmy Ritchie).
Jig tune: Jimmy Shand MBE (Jimmy Ritchie).
A suitable 4x32 recording is Fiddle Solo by Jimmy Ritchie from Dancing with the Shands (track 6).



Murrough Landon



Adam Bakker

Burlington Arcade

A medley of 16 bars strathspey and 16 bars reel for 3 couples in a longwise set

Devised by Adam Bakker

The Burlington Arcade is an up market shopping mall off Piccadilly in London. Hence the dance has the Bourrel (formerly called the Birl) and "burling".

Bars	*Description*
	Strathspey
1-2	1st couple cast off one place as 2nd couple step up.
3-7	2nd and 3rd couples dance towards their partner to join nearer hands and dance down or up towards the centre of the set making an arch (bars 3-4). They meet in the middle to dance three quarters right hand across (bars 5-7). Meanwhile 1st man dances down the set under the arch of the 3rd couple and up along the lady's side to the top while 1st lady dances up under the arch of the 2nd couple and down along the man's side to the bottom.
8	Left hand across ("Teapots") for 1 bar: 1st man with 2nd and 3rd lady at the top – and 1st lady with 2nd and 3rd man at the bottom. 1st and 3rd men are now facing across to 2nd and 1st ladies respectively. 3rd lady and 2nd man are on the centre line at the top and bottom of the set.
9-16	Bourrel for 3 couples. 3rd lady and 2nd man dance counter clockwise around the outside of the set while the others set to the person directly opposite and turn them three quarters with both hands twirling away to face their partner on the centre line. All set and turn three quarters with both hands back to their own side in the order 2,1,3.
	Reel
17-20	1st couple "burl" to end up facing 1st corner.
21-24	1st couple dance half diagonal reel of four giving right shoulder to 1st corners. Corners deflect in the direction of their partner after having passed left shoulder in the centre and take promenade hold: 2nd couple on the lady's side, 3rd couple on the man's side (3rd man will have his partner on the left).
25-28	1st couple dance half diagonal reel of four giving right shoulder to 2nd and 3rd couples, now in 2nd corner position. 2nd and 3rd couple dance the reel in promenade hold.
29-32	All "burl" for 4 bars and end in order 3,1,2.

Music

Suitable recording: Strathspey and Reel Medley (The Music Makars: Jig for Joy).

Cober Hill Caper

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

Devised by Tim Bolton-Maggs

Inspired by the London Gay Gordons' residential week at Cober Hill Hall, May 2019.

Bars	*Description*
1-4	1st and 2nd couples set on the sides, with nearer hands joined, and dance petronella in tandem.
5-8	2nd man with 1st man and 1st woman with 2nd woman set and dance right hands across halfway.
9-12	1st and 2nd couples dance half Ladies chain, 1st man and 2nd woman crossing right hand to start (2, 1, 3, 4).
13-16	All four couples advance and retire.
17-20	1st, 3rd and 4th couples dance bars 1-4 of Muirland Willie: 1st couple cross down to 4th place and cast up to 3rd place while 3rd couple set and cross down to 4th place while 4th couple cast up to 2nd place and cross.
21-24	4th, 3rd and 1st couples chase clockwise halfway (2, 3, 1, 4).
25-32	1st and 4th couples dance the Rose progression: 1st woman and 4th man change places right hand, cast to their right ; half turn right hand and twirl away on the 1st diagonal while 1st man and 4th woman set, half turn right hand and twirl away on the 1st diagonal, then cross to own side. *Note: half right hand turns are suggested here instead of both hands used in strathspey.* *Repeat from new positions*.

Music

Suggested recording: The Acklam Reelers (David Cunningham and his SDB): Catherine Margaret Hall (Jimmy Ritchie), William Ritchie Esq. (David I Cunningham, Snr), The Black Boy and Drumleys (Trad.).



Tim Bolton-Maggs

Re-jig for Covid

A 40-bar jig for four couples in a four-couple longwise set

Devised by Tim Bolton-Maggs

Inspired by the way that Covid turned the world upside-down, preventing us from making contact with other people. The "moorland progression" is a modified version of the defining sequence in Muirland Willie and reminds us of the fact that we could only take our exercise "in nature". The 40 bars are a reference to quarantine.

Bars	*Description*
1-8	All dance towards partner (1 step), pull right shoulder back and dance out to own side (1 step) then chase clockwise halfway. The order is 4,3,2,1 on opposite sides.
9-16	3rd and 2nd women dance "tandem figure of eight" round 4th couple (at the top), starting by giving right shoulder to 4th man. Meanwhile 2nd and 3rd men dance "tandem figure of eight" round 1st couple (at the foot), starting by giving right shoulder to 1st woman. The order is now 4,2,3,1 on opposite sides.
17-24	All women dance Petronella turn to centre and set while all men set and dance Petronella turn to centre. All women dance Petronella turn to own side and set while all men set and dance Petronella turn to own side (in the order 4,2,3,1).
25-32	4th, 2nd and 3rd couples dance the "moorland progression": 4th couple dance down to 3rd place (without giving hands) and cast up to 2nd place while 2nd couple set and dance down to 3rd place (without giving hands) while 3rd couple cast up to 1st place and set. Repeat from new places: 3rd couple dance down to 3rd place (without giving hands) and cast up to 2nd place while 4th couple set and dance down to 3rd place (without giving hands) while 2nd couple cast up to 1st place and set. The order is now 2,3,4,1.
33-40	2nd and 3rd couples, also 4th and 1st couples, dance "basket reels" – rights and lefts without giving hands (hands may be clasped behind your back as reelers do when dancing reels of three – swaying is optional).
	Repeat from new positions.

Music

Recommended tune: Lady Elizabeth Cole's Reel (Robert Mackintosh).
Suggested recording: Morris Dancers (Neil Barron and his SDB: The Vallin Suite 1).
This also includes: Miss Clementina Stewart of Garth's Jig (M MacDonald), Mrs Muir McKenzie's Delight (Charles Sharpe) and The Gillburn Jig (Angus Fitchet).

A Waverley Fugue

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

Devised by Tim Bolton-Maggs

Although Fugal Fergus is the first dance in the collection of "Waverley Fugues" by Hugh Foss, its claim to being either a fugue or based on Waverley is slight. This is an attempt to provide a real fugue based on Waverley/Fergus McIver.

Bars	*Description*
1-4	1st woman leads 2nd and 3rd women across the top of the set and down behind the men.
5-8	1st woman leads 2nd and 3rd women across the set below 3rd place and up to their original places while 1st man leads 2nd and 3rd men across the top of the set and down behind the women.
9-12	1st man leads 2nd and 3rd men across the set below 3rd place and up to their original places while 1st and 2nd women set to one another and change places giving right hand.
13-16	1st and 2nd men set to one another and change places giving left hand while 1st and 2nd women set to one another and turn left hand into double triangles position, 1st woman facing own side.
17-20	1st, 2nd and 3rd women dance 4 bars of double triangles while 1st and 2nd men set to one another and turn right hand into double triangles position, 1st man facing own side with his partner on his left.
21-24	1st couple with nearer hands joined dance 4 bars of "tandem double triangles" with 2nd and 3rd men (1st man giving right hand to 2nd man, 1st woman giving left hand to 3rd man). On the last two bars 1st couple turn inwards to face women's side (1st man now has his partner on his right).
25-32	1st couple "lead out sides": dance out between 2nd and 3rd women, 1st man casts up round 2nd woman while 1st woman casts down round 3rd woman; 1st couple meet and dance out between 2nd and 3rd men, 1st man casts up round 2nd man while 1st woman casts down round 3rd man to finish in 2nd place on own sides. *Repeat from second place.* *At the end of the second time through, 1st couple should dance into 4th place and 4th couple must step up so that 4th woman is ready to start the chase (as new 3rd woman).*

Music

As for Waverley but played as 32 bars, not 48 bars.
Alternative recording: The Hunting Horn (Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent: The Bobby Brown Collection). The lead tune is Tam's Hunting Horn (Ian Munro).

Dora's Dance

A 32 bar reel or jig for four couples –and a stick – in a longwise set

Devised by Adrian Garratt

This dance was devised for Dora the delightful dog at Laurieston Hall with her lovely eyes and love of sticks. Dora died in April 2018.

Bars	*Description*
	At the start 4th leader is holding the stick.
1-8	4th leader, followed by 3rd, 2nd and 1st leaders, chase anticlockwise behind the opposite side and back to place.
9-16	4th follower, followed by 3rd, 2nd and 1st followers chase clockwise back to place. On passing 4th leader, 4th follower takes the stick and then hands it to 1st leader.
17-24	1st and 2nd, also 3rd and 4th couples, each circle four hands round to the left for 4 bars, drop hands, pull left shoulder back and chase back to original places (the eyes).
25-32	2nd, 3rd and 4th couples turn once round with the right hand and then turn with the left hand moving up one place. Meanwhile 1st couple dance down to 4th place any way they please (just like Dora!).

Music

Any good reel or jig!



Adrian Garratt



Dora with stick



Dora with Sarah Kleppsattel (our host at Laurieston Hall)



Laurieston Hall Week in 2014



Roy Southall & Cos Ahmet
Both class teachers and organisers with their GG scrolls of honour





Presence at Pride Marches
We have danced at Pride events in London, Manchester, Brighton, Truro and Rome!



Demo with Adrian Garratt, Kevin Goss, Roy Bell, Dale Foulser and John Tyler



Roy Southall, Richard Clarke, Ashley Weller, Arthur Govan & Jamie Walker (GG teacher)

Our residential events have been great opportunities for testing and displaying new dances



Gold in My Pocket
Laurieston Hall, 2012



The Brilliant Diamond
Cober Hill, 2023



James Pretlove
Organiser in the early years



Steve Oakes
Current committee member



Maurice Gilbert Hughes



Murrough, Barrie, Dale, Maurice
Patrick, Cos, John, Adrian



Distance and masks
in a Covid era class

Gold in My Pocket

A 48 bar jig for four couples in a longwise set

Devised by Adrian Garratt and others

to music composed by Maurice Gilbert Hughes

Bars	*Description*
1-8	1st and 3rd couples set then dance half figure of eight round the couples below them. All set (no hands). The women all turn to face out the 2nd setting step (bar 8).
9-16	1st with 2nd couples and 3rd with 4th couples each dance a "Ladyboy Chain". This is essentially a Ladies' chain but with roles swapped: the men cross diagonally right hand to start as the women cast and half turn the men left hand on the sides. Repeat. End in order 1,2,3,4 with 1st and 3rd couples on opposite sides. All the women face out.
17-24	Ladies kissing gate: the women all cast behind the man on their left, cross right hand up and down the dance, then dance right shoulder round their partner to end on the sideline beside their partner, diagonally opposite from where they started this figure.
25-32	Mens kissing gate: the men all pull back right shoulder to cast around their partner, then cross left hand up and down the set and dance left shoulder round the woman to their left. They end opposite their partner in the order 2,1,4,3 with 2nd and 4th couples on opposite sides.
33-40	1st and 3rd couples, in 2nd and 4th places, chase half way round clockwise with 3rd man casting to start. All take hands on the side and set. Then cross back to their own sides with the right hand. The order is now 2,3,4,1.
41-48	2nd with 3rd couples and 4th with 1st couples each circle four hands round and back. Except on the last time through all circle eight hands round and back.

Music

Original tune: Gold in My Pocket by Maurice Gilbert Hughes.
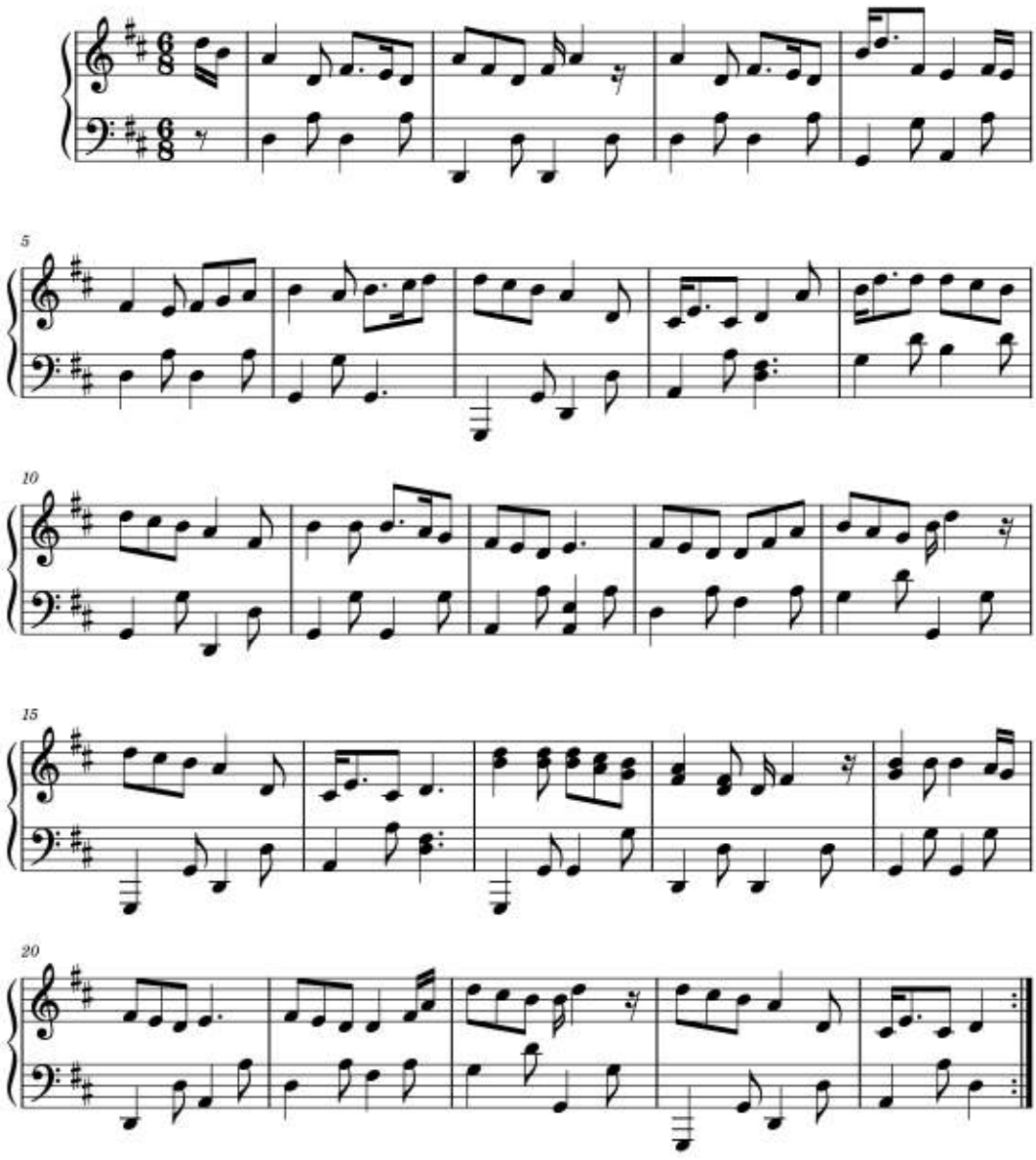
This dance was devised collectively by Adrian Garratt and friends during the Gay Gordon's 4th Annual Dance Week 12–19th May 2012 at Laurieston Hall, Dumfriesshire, Scotland to fit the tune composed by Maurice Gilbert Hughes.

Both were published in Further Ado by Lydia Hedge and Maurice Gilbert Hughes in 2021. That book has many other tunes composed by Maurice/Gilbert (who used both his names in different contexts). The dance and tune are republished here by kind permission of Lydia Hedge.

Gold in My Pocket.

jig (4 x 48 bars)

Maurice Gilbert Hughes



Copyright March 2012 Belfast

Happy Together

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

Devised by Alan Ip

Devised by Alan for Hamish Todd on the occasion of their 30th anniversary in 2018.

Bars	*Description*
1-4	1st couple cross right hand, then cast to 2nd place. 2nd couple step up at bar 3 – 4.
5-8	1st couple dance half a figure of eight round the 2nd couple and end in 2nd place own side facing down with 3rd couple facing up.
9-12	1st and 3rd couples set. 1st and 3rd ladies turn left hand while 1st and 3rd men turn right hand (2-bar turns with the dancing couple going through the middle). 1st couple end in 2nd place own side facing up and 2nd couple face down.
13-16	1st and 2nd couples set. 1st and 2nd ladies turn right hand while 1st and 2nd men turn left hand (2-bar turns with the dancing couple going through the middle). 1st couple end in 2nd place own side facing down to 3rd couple.
17-24	2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance a reflection reel of three on the side, 1st couple down and in to start, and end in the middle, back-to-back, facing their own side. Corners loop round to finish the reel.
25-32	2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance Double Triangles. 1st couple petronella to their own side to end in the order 2, 1, 3.

Music

Suitable recording: Julian's Jig (Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band: Dancers' Choice 2).



Alan Ip and Hamish Todd flanking Eleanor Watt at Sedbergh in 2017

Lanham Reel

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

Devised by Alan Ip

Devised by Alan for Hamish Todd on the occasion of their 30th anniversary in 2018.

Bars	*Description*
1-4	2nd couple steps up immediately as 1st couple, giving right hands, crosses down and joins hands with corners to balance in line position. All set.
5-8	1st couple casts to the right around 1st corner to end facing 1st corners in a diagonal line.
9-16	1st couple, passing right shoulder to 1st corners, dances a full diagonal reel of four. 1st couple passes each other left shoulder and faces 2nd corners.
17-24	1st couple dances a full diagonal reel of four with 2nd corners. 1st couple ends taking Promenade hold in the middle of the set facing down, 1st woman on 1st man's left.
25-32	1st and 3rd couples dance a reel of three across, 1st couple passing 3rd man by the right to start. 1st couple ends in the middle facing up.
33-36	1st couple, in Promenade hold, dances up between 2nd couple, separates and casts off round 2nd couple to 2nd place on the opposite side.
37-40	All set. 1st couple crosses by the right to their own side. The order is 2 1 3.

Music

As for The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh.



Hamish and Alan
when not dancing

A Strathspey for Hamish

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

Devised by Alan Ip

Devised by Alan for Hamish Todd on the occasion of their 30th anniversary in 2018.

Bars	*Description*
1-4	1st couple turn with two hands and cast to 2nd place own side. 2nd couple step up at bars 3-4.
5-8	1st couple set and petronella into the centre in lines of three across, 1st man between 3rd couple facing up and 1st lady between 2nd couple facing down.
9-12	All set. 1st couple pull right shoulder back and cast round to the right to 2nd place own side WHILE 2nd and 3rd men, also 2nd and 3rd ladies change places giving right hand on the side.
13-16	All set. All cross to opposite side giving right hand, 1st couple end facing out, 2nd and 3rd couples end facing inwards diagonally.
17-20	1st couple cast to the right around 1st corner position, dance into the middle of the set, giving right hand to each other as they pass and end facing 2nd corner position WHILE 2nd man and 3rd lady, on the 1st corner diagonal, dance curving in diagonally towards each other, passing right shoulder (do not give hands), turn about to face each other, pulling right shoulder back and dance to corner position on own side.
21-24	1st couple cast right around 2nd corner position ending in 2nd place opposite side WHILE 3rd man and 2nd lady dance curving in diagonally towards each other, passing right shoulder (do not give hands), turn about to face each other, pulling right shoulder back and dance to corner position on own side to end in order 2, 1 3 with 1st couple on opposite side.
25-28	1st man with 2nd couple (up) and 1st lady with 3rd couple (down), each dance right hands across.
29-32	1st couple half turn with two hands, face each other momentarily, pull right shoulder back and dance out to 2nd place on own side.

Music

Suitable recording: Green Ginger (George Meikle and the Lothian Band: Reel Friends Book 3).

Leiden Nuptials

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

Devised by Alan Ip

This dance was devised to celebrate the wedding of Arthur Govan and Marc Weide, which took place in October 2019 in Leiden, The Netherlands, where the couple lives. The formations used are intended to reflect the events of the day:

The Knot represents the wedding itself. The crossing up and down is to depict Arthur and Marc walking round the church after the ceremony to greet family and friends. The Promenade is the procession, led by pipes and drums, from the church, through the town centre to the reception venue. The last eight bars reflect the dancing and celebrations at the evening reception.

Bars	*Description*
1-8	1st and 2nd couples dance the Knot for 6 bars. 2nd couple continues to the side while 1st couple retains left-hand and turns to end facing up. 1st man on the left of 1st woman.
9-16	1st couple crosses up and casts off round the 2nd couple, crosses down giving left hand below the 3rd couple, casts up round the 3rd couple and ends in the centre of the set facing up. 2nd and 3rd couples step in above and below the 1st couple all in Promenade hold.
17-24	2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance a modified Promenade: 17-20: All dance bars 1-4 of a normal Promenade and face down on the men's side. 21-22: 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples ¼ turn into a line on the men's side, as in an Allemande, dance into the middle and the men bring their partners in front. 23-24: All let go of hands. 1st couple retires to their own side while 2nd and 3rd couples pass their partners by the right shoulder to the opposite side. The order is 3 1 2 with 3rd and 2nd couples on the opposite side.
25-28	3rd woman and 2nd man (1st corner diagonal) cross by the right diagonally. 3rd and 1st women also 2nd and 1st men turn by the left on the side.
29-32	3rd man and 2nd woman (2nd corner diagonal) cross by the left diagonally. 3rd and 1st men also 2nd and 1st women turn by the right on the side, to end in the order 2 1 3.

Music

Suitable recording: A Trip to Holland (Ron Kerr Quintet: Book 19 - Music for 12 SCDs).

GG XX

A 32 bar reel for four couples in a longwise set

Devised by Murrough Landon

This dance is intended to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the London Gay Gordons group which was founded in October 2005 by Daniel Capron and John Tyler. The two right hands across at the top and bottom represent XX which is 20 in Roman numerals. The combined path of 1st couple in bars 17-24 is supposed to look like the figure 2 and the final circle is the 0 for 20 years of happy dancing.

Bars	*Description*
1-4	All four couples advance and retire.
5-8	1st and 2nd couples, also 3rd and 4th couples, each dance right hands across. All end facing up and down on the sides.
9-16	All dance parallel right shoulder reels of four on the sides. 1st follower ends facing out.
17-24	1st follower casts off one place, crosses down diagonally between 3rd couple, casts off below 4th place and crosses over, curving up slightly and pulling right shoulder back. Meanwhile 1st leader crosses over, then continues along 1st follower's path. 1st couple end in 4th place on their own sides. 2nd, 3rd and 4th couples step up on bars 23-24.
25-32	All circle eight hands round to the left and back. The final order is 2,3,4,1.

Music

Suggested tune: GG XX (Ian Robertson).
A 4x32 recording of this is available via https://my.strathspey.org/u/murrough/recording/



Daniel Capron
at a Gay Gordons class in 2024

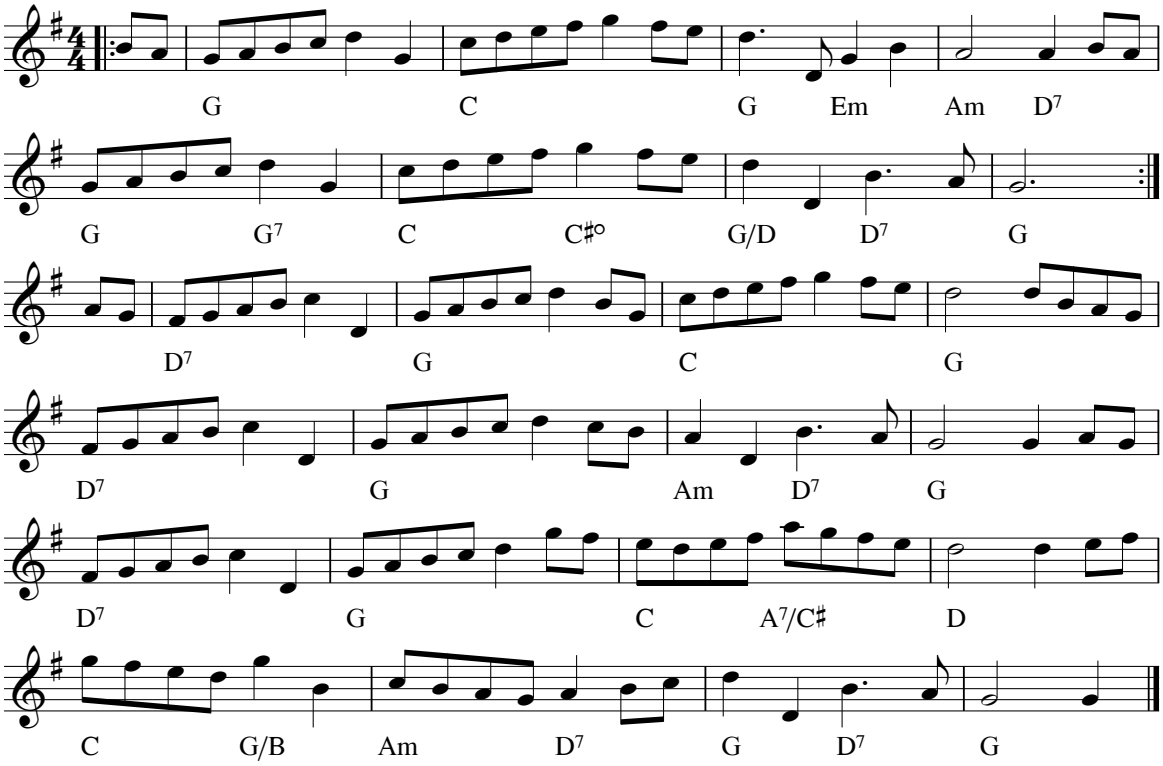


10th Anniversary Cake
at the Gay Gordons Ceilidh in 2015

Reel

GG XX

Ian Robertson



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Gay Gordons after a London Pride march

Thanks to Daniel

(or Daniel's Weddings)

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

Devised by Murrough Landon

This dance is for Daniel Capron with many thanks for starting the Gay Gordons group in London in October 2005 and for encouraging me to go along to the first class. This has led me to an enduring love of Scottish Country Dancing. My subsequent involvement in dancing, teaching, devising dances and helping to maintain the Strathspey Database (SCDDB) is ultimately all thanks to Daniel.

Daniel liked dances which have symmetry, such as Mairi's Wedding, and the subtitle reflects his own two weddings to other men. Daniel was very pleased that recent RSCDS guidelines now acknowledge that dancers may like to dance with anyone on either side of the set.

I wrote this dance when I learned that Daniel had terminal cancer. He was able to see the video which was filmed soon afterwards but he sadly died a few weeks later in May 2025.

Bars	*Description*
1-8	1st couple turn with the right hand, then cast off (at least) two places, dance in below any couple and dance up to 2nd place in the centre facing up, retaining nearer hands. 2nd couple step up on bars 3-4.
9-16	1st couple, starting out through the top, dance a right shoulder diagonal hand-in-hand reel of three with their 2nd corners. As they loop round the corner on bar 2 (and bar 6) of the reel, 1st couple drop nearer hands, each loop to the right (or left) as if dancing the reel on their own, then join nearer hands again to come into the centre and continue the reel. 1st couple end in 2nd place in the centre facing up.
17-24	1st couple, starting out through the top, dance a left shoulder diagonal hand-in-hand reel of three with their 1st corners. 1st couple once again end facing up, with nearer hands still joined, in the centre in 2nd place.
25-32	1st couple dance out of the top, separate and cast away from each other to 2nd place on their own side, then dance down and cast up around 3rd place to end in 2nd place on their own side. Meanwhile the corners dance lefts and rights, starting with left hands on the sides and ending with a half right hand turn, staying in from the sidelines, ready to form a circle.
33-40	All circle six hands round to the left and back. The final order is 2,1,3.

Music

Suggested tune: Reel for Daniel (Ian Robertson).
An 8x40 recording of this will be available via https://my.strathspey.org/u/murrough/recording/
Alternative recording: 8x40 Reels (Liz Donaldson and David Knight: Waverley Station - First Stop!).
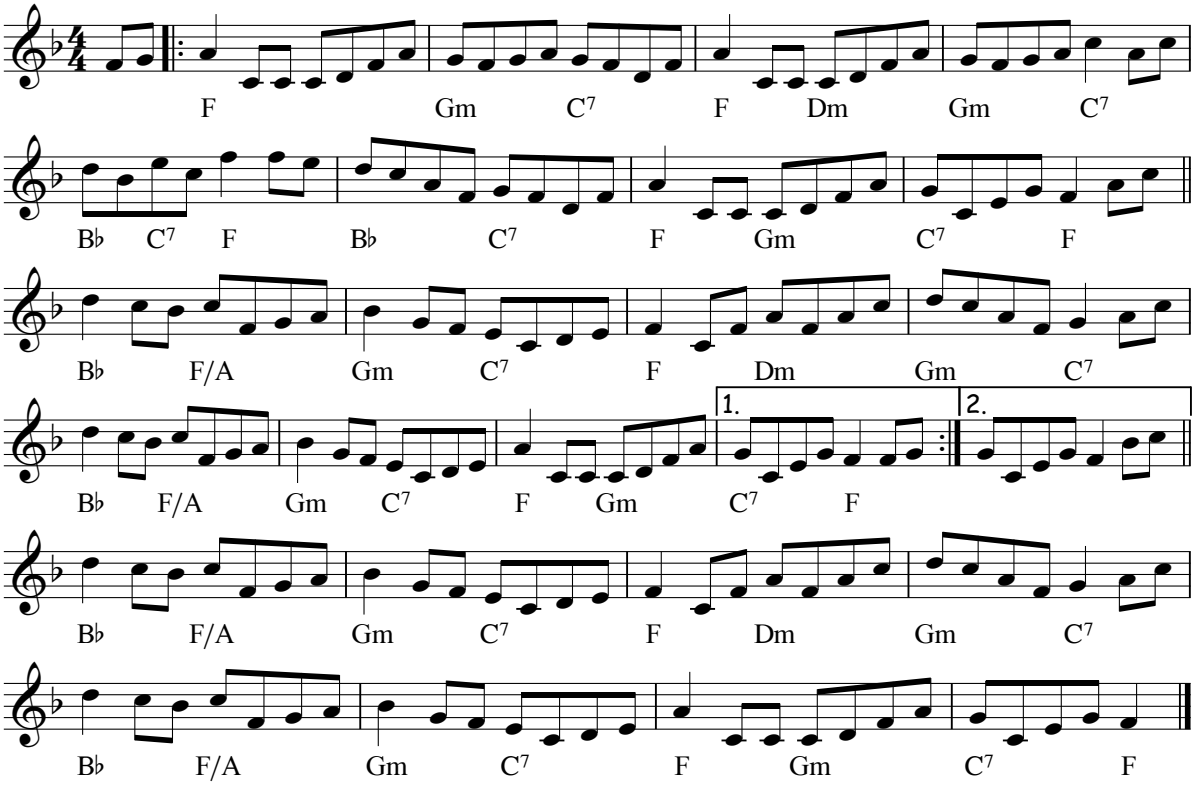
Note

Hand-in-hand reels appear in many dances by Duncan and Maggie Keppie.

Reel

Reel for Daniel

Ian Robertson



Copyright © 2025 I B Robertson





Daniel Capron

Laurieston Hall in 2012 *Lyme Regis in 2007*

Rainbow Laces

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

Devised by David Taylor

This dance was devised to celebrate The Rainbow Laces campaign of the English Premier League football and was started in 2013. Stonewall's Rainbow Laces Campaign is an annual event in support of the LGBTQ+ community and the support of increasing diversity in sports across the world. The campaign was started in 2013 and has been promoted by the biggest sports in the world from Men's and Women's association football to wheelchair rugby.

Bars	*Description*
1-8	1st couple cross down to dance a full reel of three on the opposite side, 2nd couple dance up and out, 3rd couple dance up and in to begin.
9-16	1st couple dance a full reel of three on their own sides.
17-24	1st and 2nd couples dance a full double figure of eight (2nd couple dancing up to start), 1st couple end at the top of set with nearer hands joined.
25-32	1st couple dance down the set with nearer hands joined and back to second place on their own sides (2nd couple step up on bars 29 and 30).
33-40	All dance 6 hands round and back. *NB. On their second turn through first couple could dance to third place for the circle.*

Music

Original tune: The Rainbow Laces (Andrew J Lyon).



David Taylor
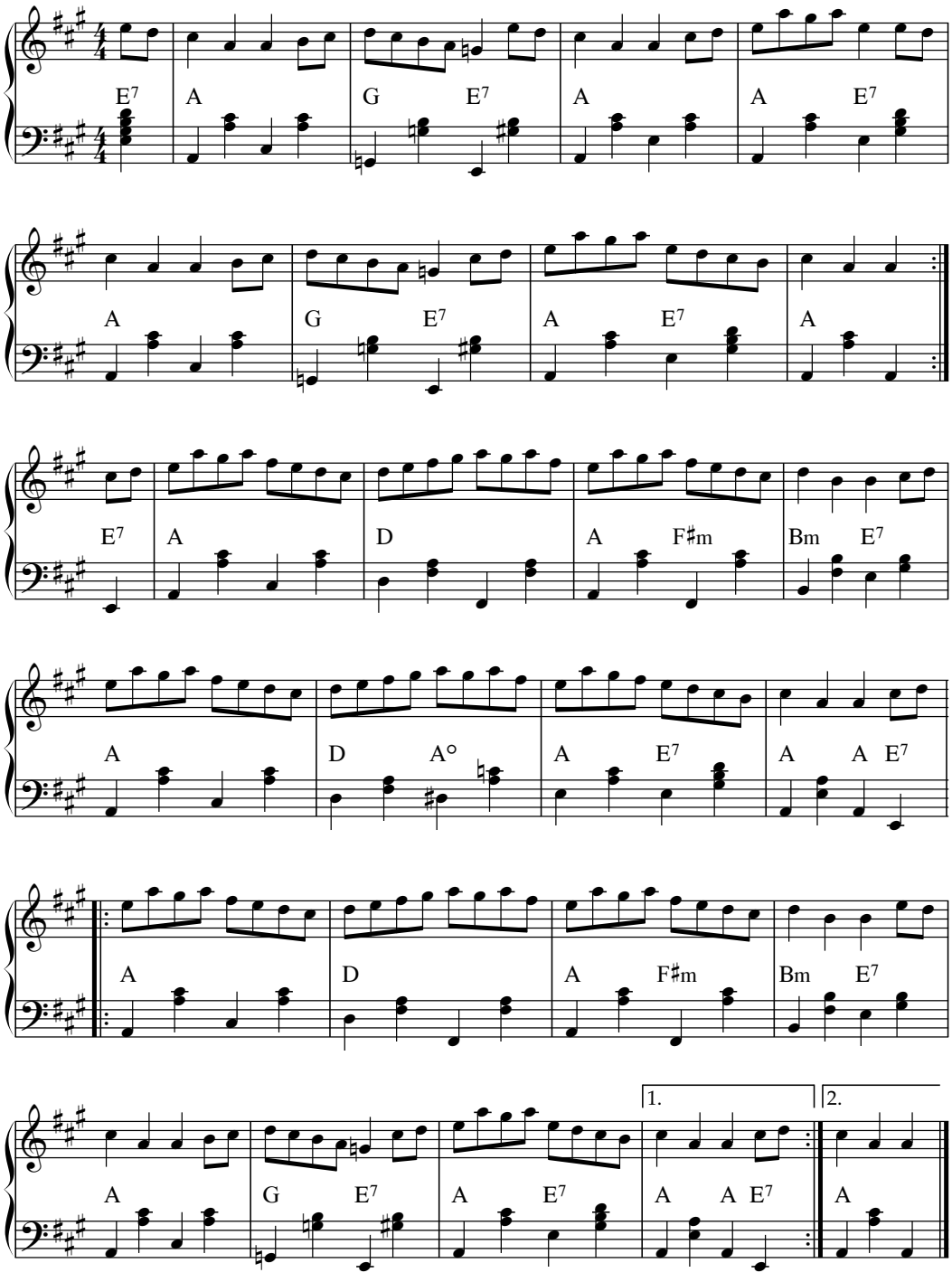


Rainbow Laces

The Rainbow Laces

8x40 Bar Reel
Devised by David Taylor

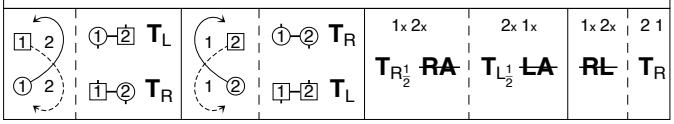
Andrew J. Lyon



Copyright © 2024 Andrew J. Lyon

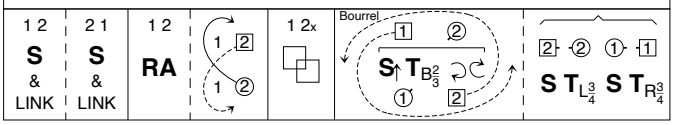
Diagrams by Keith Rose

AFORE YE GO — 8x32 S



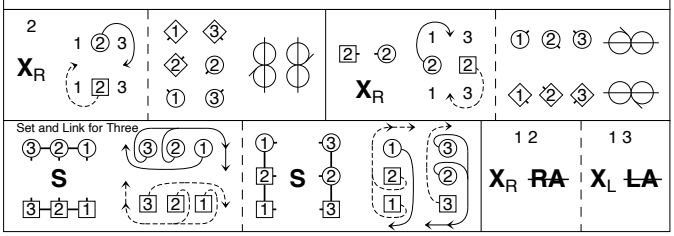
John Tyler, The Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book — 2C/4C longwise set.

ARTHUR'S SEAT 2 — 8x32 S



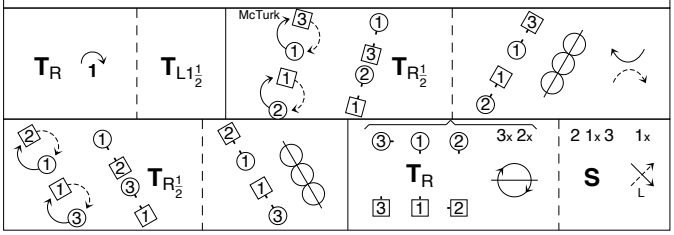
John Tyler, The Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book — 2C/4C longwise set.

THE BARRIE STRATHSPEY — 3x32 S



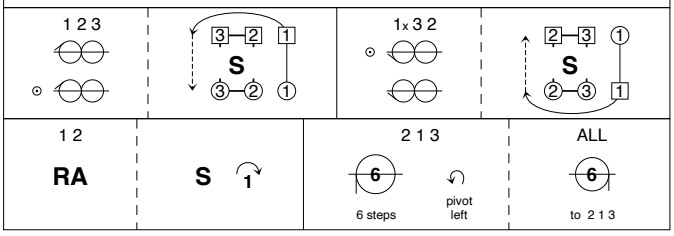
John Tyler, 2010, The Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book — 3C/3C longwise set.

THE McTURK — 3x32 S + 3x32 R



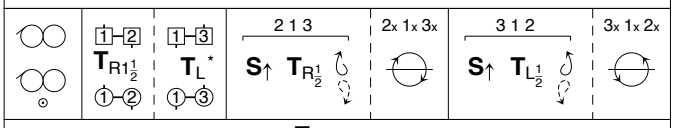
John Tyler, The Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book — 3C/3C longwise set.

RICHARD'S ROMP — 8x32 R



John Tyler, The Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book — 3C/4C longwise set.

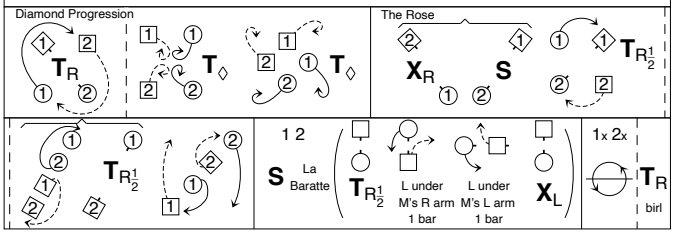
THE ROBERTSON ROSE — 8x32 S



* If danced in a 3 couple set, bars 13–16: $T_{L1\frac{1}{2}}$

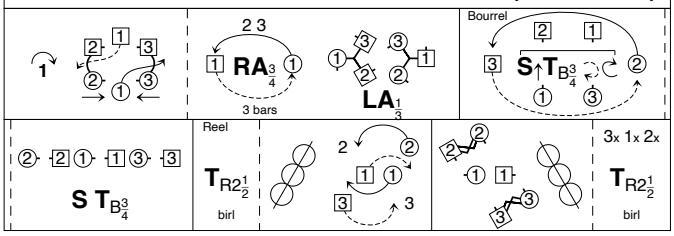
John Tyler, The Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book — 3C/4C longwise set.

THE BRILLIANT DIAMOND — 8x32 R



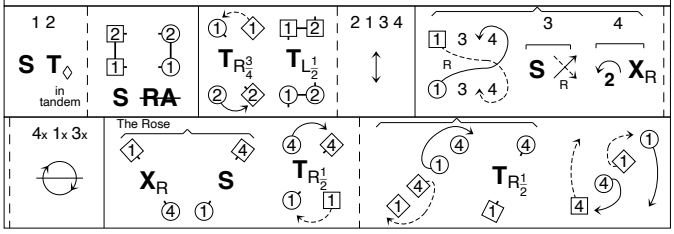
Adam Bakker, 2023, The Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book — 2C/4C longwise set.

BURLINGTON ARCADE — 3x(16 S + 16 R)



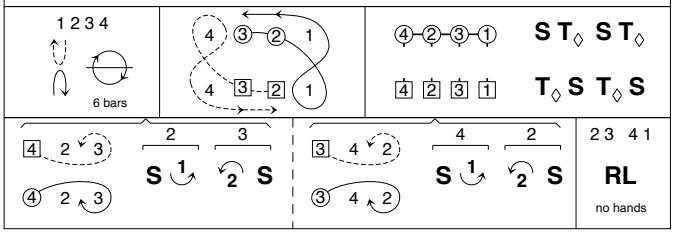
Adam Bakker, 2022, The Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book — 3C/3C longwise set.

COBER HILL CAPER — 4x32 R



Tim Bolton–Maggs, 2019, The Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book — 4C/4C longwise set.

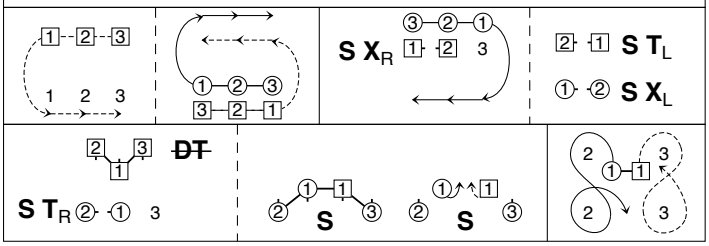
RE–JIG FOR COVID — 4x40 J



Tim Bolton–Maggs, 2021, The Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book — 4C/4C longwise set.

A WAVERLEY FUGUE

8x32 J

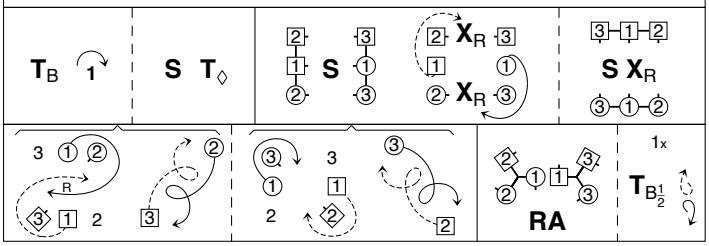


Tim Bolton–Maggs, 2023, The Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book

3C/4C longwise set.

A STRATHSPEY FOR HAMISH

8x32 S



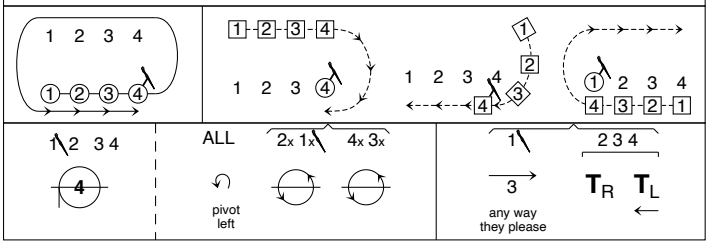
Alan Ip, 2018, The Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book

3C/4C longwise set.

DORA'S DANCE

4 couples and a stick

4x32 R or J

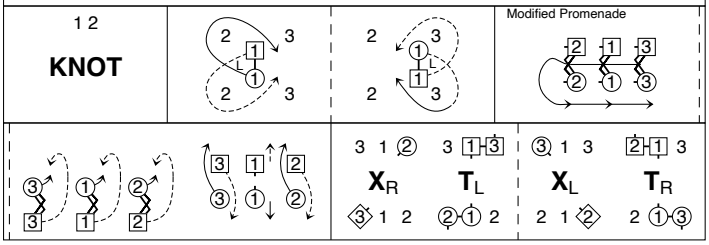


Adrian Garratt, 2009, Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book

4C/4C longwise set.

LEIDEN NUPTIALS

8x32 S

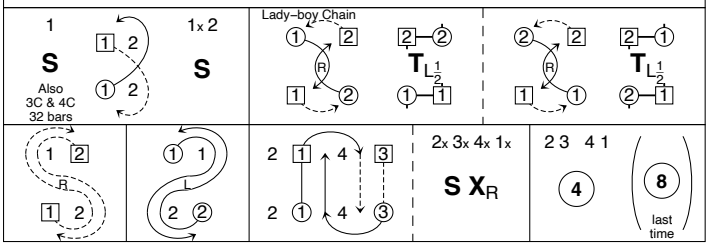


Alan Ip, 2019, The Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book

3C/4C longwise set.

GOLD IN MY POCKET

4x48 J

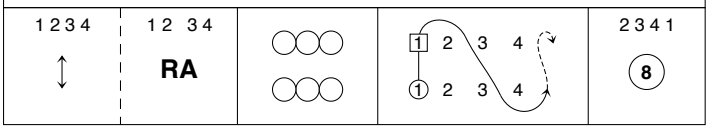


The Gay Gordons, 2012, Further Ado, The Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book

4C/4C longwise set.

GG XX

4x32 R

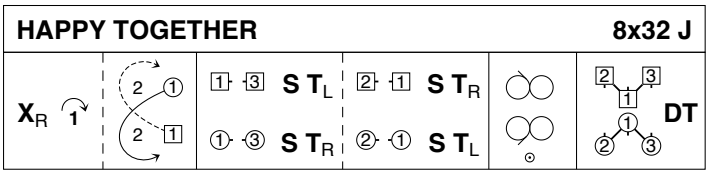


Murrough Landon, 2024, The Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book

4C/4C longwise set.

HAPPY TOGETHER

8x32 J



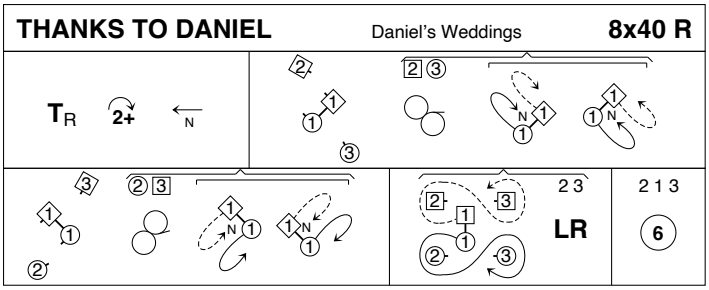
Alan Ip, 2018, The Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book

3C/4C longwise set.

THANKS TO DANIEL

Daniel's Weddings

8x40 R

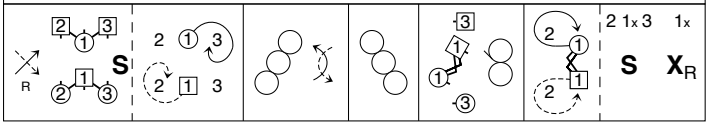


Murrough Landon, 2025, https://my.strathspey.org/u/murrough/ThanksToDaniel.pdf

3C/4C longwise set.

LANHAM REEL

8x40 R

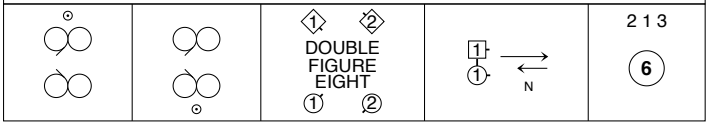


Alan Ip, 2018, The Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book

3C/4C longwise set.

RAINBOW LACES

8x40 R



David Taylor, 2023, The Gay Gordons 20th Anniversary Book

3C/4C longwise set.

Personal Memories

Charles Keal

What a wonderful thing it was in the early years, packed with gorgeous gay men, a good social occasion. It was a really collegiate group: no-one dominated, responsibility was shared, and everyone made a contribution.

Cos Ahmet

My personal memories are forever lodged in the GG's Laurieston Dance Weeks, always full of love, laughter, energy, and of course, LOTS of dancing!

Roy Southall

I discovered the GGs 16 years ago, just before my 60th birthday. I found a group of friendly and enthusiastic people with an excellent teacher - John Tyler. Since then John's ideal that everyone should dance on which ever side of the set they wanted has become accepted.

Ashley Weller

I first crossed paths with the GGs at the RSCDS summer dancing in Kensington Gardens. That chance meeting has enriched my life, beyond words. In the 18 years since, I have enjoyed numerous dancing events and holidays, much fun and laughter, and made so many fabulous, life-long friends. I will be forever grateful to Roy Bell, who was the first GG to chat with me that day, inviting me to the classes.

John Evans

When dancing with friends in the Yorkshire Dales I was rather crossly (and poshly) told off for not knowing how to reel "the Saltire".
I decided I needed lessons. The GGs has been a wonderful new part of my life: the dance, the music, the fun and the friendship.

Arthur Govan

The GGs was the support group I didn't realise I needed. I saw James Pretlove's advert for a new LGBT+ SCD group and when I walked in with my pipes John was surprised! I am delighted to contribute, and still be somewhat involved, after 20 years of dancing, fun and friendships. Via the GGs I met wonderful people - and my husband.

Murrough Landon

Daniel Capron invited me to the first GGs class - and I was intrigued.
Patrick Brunskill persuaded me to come to that wonderful first GGs week at Laurieston Hall - and then I was completely hooked!

Alan Ip

Taking up SCD is one of the best things I have ever done. It would not have happened without the GGs. It is a major part of my life which I am pleased to share with my husband, Hamish.

Tim Bolton-Maggs

To a gay man keen on SCD the GGs sounded wonderful, so in March 2009 I made a beeline for Islington. The evening was all I hoped for, thanks to John's excellent teaching and the friendliness of the group. Six months later I was asked to help start the Edinburgh GGs!

Adam Bakker

SCD was a big part of my 50th birthday party: the best party of my life. I invited the GGs and all my friends, who had no clue about dancing, on a pleasure boat. We cruised up and down the Thames while John Tyler instructed the dancing novices and the Aspidistra Drawing Room Orchestra played on the other deck. The dancing stimulated social interaction and soon the dance floor was too small.

David Lieberman

A fantastic group of people that provides great dancing, friendship - and long impromptu dance nights at Laurieston Hall. The organisation was seminal in furthering acceptance of gender free dancing throughout the UK and RSCDS. Thanks to the founders and committee for everything!

the gay Gordons

Gay Gordons Manchester

THE GAY GORDONS EDINBURGH
GG
LGBTQI SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING