

The Whetherly Book of Scottish Country Dances

Number 11

By John W. Mitchell

Originally published by:
Wallace Mitchell & Co., Hove, 1982

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Digitalisation and editorial assistance:
Viktor Lehmann

Version:
1.01 / 2024-11-28

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New formations are described in the appendix of this book:

- Granny knot for three couples (Blairnane's Rant)
- Reversed Quern progression for two couples (Mol-a-deas)

Original Introduction

I have been accused of deliberately selecting 'odd, obscure or even faintly amusing' titles for some of the dances in these collections. Generally speaking that is not true, I lay the blame squarely at the door of the composers of the music selected for these dances. It has also been said that there are now too many new dances. Up to the year 1900 some 10,000 different country dances had been devised and published. Many of these come from the days of the Crinoline and bustle, tight stays for the ladies and stiff shirts for the men. Most of them have been forgotten and are not really suitable for reviving in the current age. These dances like most other new ones are devised for the time in which we live. Some will live on, the majority will die. Good dances live forever despite being radically altered when they are republished. There must be many new ones devised so that the best can live on by popular demand.

John W. Mitchell (1982)

Introduction to the new edition

Certainly hope so – and this is where you come in, dear reader. One of our aims with the new edition(s) is to ensure that more dances live on and less are forgotten. If it was already claimed in 1982 that too many dances are being devised, I wonder what would be thought of the number around now? I'd be interested to investigate the rate of dances being devised over time, as well as the originality of figures within those dances. Human beings are, in general, creative and creativity can be poorly replaced by robots. Although it is impossible to explore all dances that have been devised, I hope that we may save a few hidden gems from being consigned to the forgotten dustbins of history. Time to blow off the cobwebs and select a couple from the offerings of this book!

Alison M. W. Mitchell (2022)

John Wallace Mitchell - A Brief Biography

(31/05/1931 – 25/11/2012)

John Wallace Mitchell was born and raised in Brighton & Hove, Sussex. Following his school education, which took place against a background of war, he completed military service from 1949-1951 with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) army division. He then started work in accountancy, joining the Sperry Rand corporation in 1957 as a computer and business systems analyst. In 1958 he became a member of the British Computer Society, only a few months after its foundation. In the early 1960's, the focus of his career moved towards management consultancy, and he completed many assignments for several companies, often helping to set up their first computer systems, with work taking him to many locations both within the UK and western Europe, as well as to Saudi Arabia. Eventually he set up a private practice in 1972.

He was a keen cyclist, active in several clubs and competing at a local level from 1946 – 1956. When in the army, he would often cycle back to Brighton on free weekends, which could be up to 140 miles each way.

Although he first encountered Scottish Country Dancing in Dollar, Scotland in 1947, it wasn't until 1964 that he began to take it seriously, when he joined the Leeds clubs and RSCDS Branch. After moving back to the Brighton area, he became a member of the London branch in 1966 and in 1967 was the founder chairman of the Sussex Association of Scottish Societies, which was formed to ensure the future of the local Annual Scottish Charity Ball by connecting many clubs in the region. This led to the first day schools and teachers' training courses in the region. In 1972 he obtained a full RSCDS teacher's certificate and in 1975 became the founder chairman of the Hangleton Scottish Country Dance Club. From approximately 1968 to 1992 he devised some 828 dances, which were published in this series of Whetherly Books and Sheets. Whetherly is the maiden name of his paternal grandmother, after which the house in which he grew up was also named ("Whetherly House"). In 2010 he received the London Branch award for services to Scottish Dancing.

John passed away in 2012 after a two year battle with cancer.



Back O'The Change House

A forty-eight bar Strathspey for four couples in a square set.

- 1-4 The ladies dance right hands across in a wheel, three quarters round the set, finishing on the sides. Meanwhile the men set Highland Schottische.
- 5-8 The ladies set Highland Schottische; whilst the men dance left hands across in a wheel, three quarters round the set to finish facing their original opposite lady (men all back to back in the centre of the set).
- 9-12 First and third couples dance a half reel of four across the set. Meanwhile second man turns fourth lady once round with the right hand, fourth man turning second lady similarly.
- 13-16 Second and fourth couples dance a half reel of four up and down the set. Meanwhile first man turns third lady once round by the right hand, whilst third man turns the lady similarly. At the end of the reel second and fourth men join left hands as they pass, first and third men similarly joining left hands at the end of their turns.
- 17-20 Repeat bars 5-8, the men wheeling three quarters round by the left hand whilst the ladies set.
- 21-24 Repeat bars 1-4, the ladies dancing right hands across whilst the men set (all are now back in their original places).
- 25-28 Men petronella one place anticlockwise round the square and set. Meanwhile the ladies set and dance right hands across in a wheel one place clockwise round the set, ladies finish in the centre of the set.
- 29-32 Each man turns the lady he is now facing into the sidelines with the left hand.
- 33-40 Repeat bars 25-32, but finish by each man turning his own partner with the left hand completely round so that the ladies are back to back in the centre of the set.
- 41-42 All set to partners.
- 43-44 All turn partners half way with the right hand.
- 45-46 The ladies dance one place clockwise round the set, whilst the men dance a quick three quarter wheel with the left hand.
- 47-48 All turn partner into the sidelines. First couple are now in fourth place.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: Back O'The Change House

Blairnane's Rant

A thirty-two bar Strathspey for four couples in a longwise set.

- 1-8 Snowball chain, one step to each hand. First and fourth couples cross over giving right hand on bar 1, first and second couples change places giving left hand on bar 2 whilst third and fourth couples do the same. Finish in the order 1, 3, 2, 4.
- 9-16 First and fourth couples dance a half reel of four progression:
9-10 turn partners three quarters with right hand;
11-14 half a reel of four up and down the set;
15-16 turn partners three quarters with right hand.
- 17-24 Eight hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.
- 25-32 Fourth, third and second couples dance a granny knot (a left handed knot) for three couples*.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: Blairnane's Rant

* The granny knot (a left-handed knot) is described in the appendix of this book.

Connaghtman's Rambles

A forty-eight bar Jig for four couples in a longwise set.

- 1-8 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel for three steps, back with the left hand and then first couple cast into second place whilst second couple dance up to first place.
- 9-16 First couple dance a figure of eight round third couple, crossing down to start.
- 17-20 First couple cross giving right hand and cast off into fourth place, third and fourth couples step up on bars 19 & 20.
- 21-28 First and fourth couples dance a ladies' chain.
- 29-32 First couple dance half figure of eight round fourth couple, crossing up between fourth couple to start.
- 33-40 Second and third couples dance rights and lefts, fourth and first couples do the same.
- 41-48 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: Connaghtman's Rambles

Cotyburn

A thirty-two bar Reel for four couples in a longwise set. On the second chord third and fourth couples cross to opposite side.

- 1-8 All four couples dance a half grand chain, two steps to each hand.
- 9-10 First and fourth couples cross giving right hand, whilst second and third couples join hands on the side and set.
- 11-14 Second couple dance a half figure of eight round fourth position crossing down to commence and third couple dance a half figure of eight round first position crossing up to start. Meanwhile first man and fourth lady turn one and a half times with the left hand to change places, first lady and fourth man turning similarly.
- 15-16 First and fourth couples cross giving right hand, whilst second and third couples join hands on the side and set.
- 17-18 First couple cast off into second place whilst third couple cross into first place and second couple cross into fourth place whilst fourth couple cast up into third place.
- 19-22 First couple dance a half figure of eight round first position crossing up to commence, fourth couple dance a half figure of eight round fourth position crossing down to start. Meanwhile second man and third lady turn one and a half times with the right hand to change places, second lady and third man turning similarly.
- 23-24 Second and third couples cross giving left hand whilst first and fourth couples dance left hands across in a wheel half way.
- 25-32 Reels of four on the sides of the set.

Repeat with new end couples.

Recommended tune: Cotyburn

Edmund Mackenzie of Plockton

A forty-eight bar Jig for four couples in a longwise set.

- 1-4 First couple dance a half figure of eight round second couple and third couple dance a half figure of eight round fourth couple, crossing down to start.
- 5-8 First couple lead down below second couple, cast up to the top and finish between second couple all facing down with nearer hands joined. Meanwhile third couple lead down below fourth couple, cast up and dance in to finish between fourth couple all facing down similarly.
- 9-16 All join nearer hands and dance down the middle for four steps, releasing hands and all turning to their right on bar 12, then all dance up the middle.
- 17-24 First and second couples dance a reel of four, third and fourth couples do the same.
- 25-26 First lady and second man turn with the right hand, third man and fourth lady turn with the right hand whilst first man and third lady turn with the right hand in the middle of the set.
- 27-28 First couple turn with the left hand on the men's side whilst third couple turn with the left hand on the ladies' side.
- 29-30 Second lady and third man turn with the right hand, first lady and fourth man turn with the right hand and first man whilst third lady turn with the right hand in the middle of the set.
- 31-32 First and third couples turn left hand on the sides as before to finish with first man and third lady back to back in the centre facing own partners.
- 33-34 First and third couples set.
- 35-38 First and third couples dance a half reel of four, on bars 37-38 first man and third lady turn left hand to own side (third lady into second place and first man into third place) whilst third man dances up into second place and first lady dances down into third place at the end of the reel.
- 39-40 First couple lead down into fourth place.
- 41-48 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: Edmund Mackenzie of Plockton

Fanny Power

A thirty-two bar Jig for three couples in a longwise set.

- 1-4 First couple set and cast off into second place, second couple step up on bars 3 & 4.
- 5-8 First man dances a half figure of eight round third couple whilst first lady dances a half figure of eight round second couple, first couple pass left shoulder to face their partner's first corner.
- 9-12 First couple dance a half reel of four with their first corners, passing left shoulder to face their partner's second corner.
- 13-16 First couple dance a half reel of four with their second corners, first couple pass left shoulder to finish back to back facing opposite sidelines.
- 17-18 Join hands in triangle position and set (three men on ladies' side and three ladies on men's side).
- 19-20 First and second men turn with right hand, first and third ladies turn similarly.
- 21-24 First man dances a half reel of three with second couple, passing second lady by the left to start, whilst first lady dances a half reel of three with third couple passing third man by the left to start, at the end first couple pass by the left to finish back to back, first man facing up and first lady facing down.
- 25-26 First man joins hands with third couple and first lady with second couple in triangle formation facing up and down, and all set.
- 27-28 First and third men turn with the left hand, first and second ladies do the same.
- 29-32 First man dances a half reel of three with second and third men passing second man by the right to commence, whilst first lady dances a half reel of three with second and third ladies passing third lady by the right to commence.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Fanny Power

Gainsborough

A thirty-two bar Reel for three couples in a longwise set.

- 1-8 First, second and third couples dance a grand chain.
- 9-16 First couple cross over giving right hand and cast off into second place, second couple step up on bars 11 & 12; first couple then cross giving left hand and cast off into third place, third couple stepping up on bars 15 & 16.
- 17-18 First couple dance up crossing to opposite side, lady passing in front of her partner.
- 19-20 First lady turns second man with the right hand whilst first man turns second lady with the left hand.
- 21-22 First couple dance down crossing to own side, first lady passing in front of her partner.
- 23-24 First and third ladies turn with the left hand, whilst first and third men turn with the right hand, first couple finish in second place.
- 25-32 Reels of three on own side of the set, to start first couple dance in and up, second couple dance out and down and third couple out and up, flowing out from the end of the turns.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Gainsborough

The Galtee Rangers

A forty-eight bar Reel for three couples in a longwise set.

- 1-8 First couple cast off into second place, cross over giving right hand, cast up to the top and cross to own side giving left hand; second couple step up on bars 1 & 2.
- 9-12 First couple cast off into second place and turn with the right hand to face first corners.
- 13-16 First couple turn first corners with the left hand, then turn second corners with the right hand to finish in second place on opposite sides, facing their first corners.
- 17-22 Reels of three on opposite sides, passing first corner by the left to commence.
- 23-24 Turn with the left hand to face first corners.
- 25-32 Hello-Goodbye setting to finish back to back facing second corner.
- 33-40 Reel of four with second corners to finish facing first corner.
- 41-48 Reel of four with first corners to finish in second place on own side facing out, ready to start again.

Repeat from second place. At the end of the repeat dancing couple cast into fourth place as new top couple starts.

Recommended tune: The Galtee Rangers

Hagg's Castle

A ninety-six bar medley for four couples in a square set.

Strathspey

- 1-8 All four couples dance a grand chain, ladies stay facing clockwise, omitting the polite turn.
- 9-12 The ladies dance right hands across in a wheel half way and turn opposite man with the left hand.
- 13-16 The ladies dance right hands across in a wheel half way and turn partners with the left hand, ladies finish facing out.
- 17-32 All dance a Schiehallion reel, to start the men cross diagonally to their right whilst the ladies cast into their partner's places.
- 35-36 All turn partner by the right hand.
- 37-40 All turn corners by the left hand.
- 41-48 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Hornpipe

- 49-96 Repeat bars 1-48.

Recommended tunes: Strathspey: Hagg's Castle; Hornpipe: Fisher's Hornpipe

Her Grace's Joy

A thirty-two bar medley for three couples in a longwise set.

Strathspey

- 1-4 First couple cast off and turn with the right hand to face their first corners, second couple step up on bars 1 & 2.
- 5-8 First couple turn first corner with the left hand and second corner with the right hand to finish in second place, on the opposite side, facing first corners.
- 9-14 First couple dance a reel of three with their corners passing their first corners by the left to commence.
- 15-16 First couple turn with their left hand to face their first corners.

Reel

- 17-24 Hello-Goodbye setting finishing back to back facing their second corners.
- 25-30 First couple dance reels of three with their corners passing their second corners by the right to start.
- 31-32 First couple cross back to own side giving right hand and finish facing out, ready to start again.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tunes: Strathspey: Wee Willie's Strathspey; Reel: Duke of Leinster's Wife

Laura Andrews

A forty-eight bar Reel for four couples in a longwise set. On the second chord second and fourth couples cross to opposite side.

- 1-4 First couple dance a half figure of eight round second couple, crossing down to start, whilst fourth couple dance a half figure of eight round third couple, crossing up to start; at the same time on bars 1 & 2 second couple set turning to face down and third couple set turning to face up, then second and third couples turn half way with the left hand to change places on the sidelines.
- 5-8 Second and third couples dance half a ladies' chain to finish with second couple on the ladies' side and third couple on the men's side.
- 9-16 First couple face down, second lady and third man face up, second man and third lady face down and fourth couple face up; the four couples dance half a grand chain, two steps to each hand, starting by giving right hands on the side of the set. All finish facing the person to whom they gave right hand to commence the chain (all facing up and down on the sidelines).
- 17-20 All set and turn the person they are facing with the right hand so that the ladies finish in the centre of the set and men at the outside corners.
- 21-24 The ladies dance left hands across in a wheel once round whilst the men dance clockwise half way round the outside of the set. Positions now are: first man in first lady's place facing third lady; second man in fourth lady's place facing first lady; third man in first man's place facing fourth lady and fourth man in own place facing second lady.
- 25-28 All turn one and a half times with the right hand to change places, with the person they are facing.
- 29-32 The four men dance left hands across in a wheel once round whilst the ladies dance half way round the outside of the set in a clockwise direction. Positions now are: first lady in first man's place facing third man; second lady in first lady's place facing first man; third lady in fourth man's place facing fourth man and fourth lady in own place facing second man.
- 33-36 All turn the person they are facing with the right hand to finish on the sidelines with the ladies on the men's left. Positions now are: first couple at the top on opposite sides; second couple on the ladies' side; third couple on the men's side and fourth couple in fourth place on own side. (Same positions as at the end of bar 8).
- 37-40 Second and third couples dance half a men's chain; men cross giving left hands to commence.
- 41-44 First couple cross giving right hand in passing and cast off behind second couple, who stand still.
- 45-48 First couple cross over giving left hand and cast off into fourth place; second, third and fourth couples join hands and step up on bars 47 & 48.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: Laura Andrews

Lord Randall's Bride

A forty-eight bar Reel for four couples in a longwise set. On the second chord third and fourth couples cross to opposite side.

- 1-4 First couple lead down below second couple and cast off behind third couple into fourth place whilst fourth couple lead up between third couple and cast up behind second couple into first place. Ladies take priority over men when dancing out between second and third couple.
- 5-8 First and fourth couples turn own partner one and a half times with the right hand.
- 9-10 First couple cast up into third place, third couple step down; whilst fourth couple cast off into second place, second couple step up.
- 11-12 First and fourth couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way.
- 13-16 Second man followed by his partner casts off behind first man and commences to cross towards the opposite side of the set; at the same time third man followed by his partner casts up behind fourth man and commences to cross passing second man by the left. First couple step up and fourth couple step down on bars 15 & 16.
- 17-24 Second and third men having passed left shoulder are now facing each other's partner. Second and third couples dance a reel of four.
- 25-32 Second man and third lady, with first lady and fourth man, dance right hands across in a wheel and back with the left hand on the ladies' side of the set; at the same time their partners dance right hands across in a wheel and back with the left on the men's side of the set.
- 33-36 Second and third men change places giving right hand and turn own partner with the left hand to finish with third lady in second place and second lady in third place.
- 37-40 Second and third couples dance a half ladies' chain.
- 41-44 First couple set and cast off, second couple step up on bars 43 & 44; whilst fourth couple set and cast up, third couple step down on bars 43 & 44.
- 45-48 First and fourth couples dance half rights and lefts.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: Lord Randall's Bride

Madge Bayne

A thirty-two bar Jig for three couples in a longwise set.

- 1-2 First couple set.
- 3-6 First couple dance a half figure of eight round second couple, crossing down to commence, second couple step up on bars 3 & 4.
- 7-8 First couple cross down to finish back to back in the centre of the set facing own side.
- 9-12 All three couples dance four bars of double triangles: they join hands and set, then first couple turn to face the other side whilst corners continue to set.
- 13-16 Half a reel of four with first corners, first couple finish back to back, all the ladies face down and all the men face up.
- 17-20 First man joins hands with second and third lady and first lady with second and third men, they set as in triangle position, then first couple change places whilst the others continue to set.
- 21-24 Dancing couple pass their partner's second corners by the right to commence a half reel of four with second corners. First couple finish in second place on own side of the set.
- 25-28 First couple turn by the right hand to face first corner position, then first man turns second man by the left hand whilst first lady turns third lady by the left hand; first couple finish facing their second corner positions. At the same time second lady and third man dance half way round in a clockwise circle to their own sides.
- 29-32 First couple turn second corners by the right hand and cross back to own side of the set giving left hand in passing; at the same time third lady and second man dance half way round in an anticlockwise circle to own side of the set.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Madge Bayne

The Man From Uist

A thirty-two bar Strathspey for four couples in a longwise set.

- 1-8 First and fourth couples cross giving right hand in passing, first and fourth men turn one and a half times with the left hand on the ladies' side of the set, whilst first and fourth ladies turn one and a half times with the left hand on the men's side of the set, then first and fourth couples cross back to own side giving right hand in passing and remain facing out. At the same time second and third couples set, dance right hands across in a wheel once round and set.
- 9-14 Fourth couple dance three quarters of a figure of eight round second place, casting off to start; whilst first couple dance three quarters of a figure of eight round third place, casting up to start. At the same time second couple cross up to first place as third couple cross down to fourth place; then second and third men turn one and a half times on the ladies' side to change places whilst second and third ladies turn similarly on the men's side, both turns with the left hand.
- 15-16 Second and third couples cross to own side giving right hand in passing. Meanwhile first and fourth couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way.
- 17-24 Eight hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.
- 25-32 All four couples dance a grand chain, one step to each hand.
Finish in the order 3, 1, 4, 2.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: The Man From Uist

Mol-a-deas

A thirty-two bar Reel for two couples in a longwise set.

- 1-8 Four hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.
- 9-16 Reversed Quern progression for two couples*:
 - 9-11 first and second couples turn partner with the left hand once round;
 - 12-14 left hands across in a wheel half way;
 - 15-16 cross left hand to own side of the set.
- 17-18 First lady and second man change places giving right hand in passing.
- 19-20 First and second ladies cross giving left hand in passing, first and second men do the same.
- 21-22 First man and second lady change places giving right hand in passing.
- 23-24 First and second couples cross giving right hand to partner in passing.
- 25-28 First and second couples set twice.
- 29-32 First and second couples dance half rights and lefts.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Mol-a-deas

* The Reversed Quern progression for two couples is described in the appendix of this book.

Mrs. Herries Forbes

A thirty-two bar Reel for two couples in a longwise set.

- 1-2 First and second couples cross over giving right hands in passing.
- 3-4 Right hands across in a wheel half way.
- 5-8 Half rights and lefts.
- 9-12 Second couple dance a half figure of eight round first couple, crossing up to commence.
- 13-16 First couple dance a half figure of eight round second couple, crossing down to commence.
- 17-20 Half rights and lefts.
- 21-22 First and second couples dance left hands across in a wheel half way to finish facing up and down on own sides of the set.
- 23-24 First and second ladies change places giving left hand in passing; first and second men do the same.
- 25-32 Four hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Mrs. Herries Forbes

O'er The Hills

A thirty-two bar Reel for two couples in a longwise set.

- 1-8 First and second couples dance rights and lefts.
- 9-12 First couple turn one and a half times with the right hand.
- 13-16 First couple dance right hands across in a wheel with second lady to finish with first man in own place facing out, first lady in second place and second lady in first place.
- 17-20 First couple dance left hands across with second man to finish with second man in first place and first couple in second place on the opposite sides.
- 21-24 First couple turn one and a half times with the left hand.
- 25-32 Four hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: O'er The Hills And Far Away

Out in the Ocean

A ninety-six bar Jig for four couples in a longwise set.

- 1-4 Third and fourth couples dance half rights and lefts.
- 5-8 Second and fourth couples dance half a ladies' chain.
- 9-12 Second and fourth couples dance half rights and lefts.
- 13-16 First and third couples set and turn partner half way to finish facing up and down. Dancers are now in a square set.
- 17-24 Double ladies' chains: first and third couples dance a ladies' chain up and down the set, whilst second and fourth couples dance a ladies' chain across the set; the ladies commence by giving right hands across in a wheel half way whilst the men dance along the sides.
- 25-32 Eight hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.
- 33-40 Double men's chain: the men commence by dancing left hands across in a wheel half way whilst the ladies dance along the sides: on bar 40 the ladies all finish facing out.
- 41-56 Schiehallion reel, the men cross to commence whilst the ladies cast into their partners' positions.
- 57-64 Eight hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.
- 65-68 First and third couples dance half rights and lefts to finish back on the sides in a longwise set.
- 69-72 Second and fourth couples dance half a ladies' chain.
- 73-76 Third and fourth couples dance a double figure of eight half way, to start third couple cast off as fourth couple cross up.
- 77-80 Fourth and second couples dance a double figure of eight half way, to start second couple cast up as fourth cross down.
- 81-88 Third, fourth and second couples dance a reel of three on own side of the set, fourth couple dance in and up to start.
- 89-96 Eight hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.
Finish in the order 3, 4, 2, 1.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tunes: Bidy the Bowl Wife; Paddy O'Carroll; Out in the Ocean

Paddy on the Railroad

A forty-eight bar Reel for four couples in a longwise set. On the second chord third and fourth couples cross to opposite side.

- 1-4 First couple dance a half figure of eight round second couple, crossing down to start; whilst fourth couple dance a half figure of eight round third couple crossing up to start.
- 5-8 Second and third couples dance half a ladies' chain.
- 9-16 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right. Finish in square formation.
- 17-20 The men dance left hands across in a wheel a quarter round and turn the next lady with the right hand once round.
- 21-24 Repeat bars 17-20, men finishing half way round the square.
- 25-28 Ladies dance right hands across a quarter round and turn the next man once round with the left hand.
- 29-32 Repeat bars 25-28, ladies finishing next to their partners.
- 33-36 Second and third couples dance half a ladies' chain, first and fourth couples opening out to face their partners so that all are back in a longwise set.
- 37-40 Half reels of four on the sides.
- 41-42 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way, third and fourth couples do the same.
- 43-44 First and fourth couples dance left hands across in a wheel half way.
- 45-48 Fourth and first couples turn partner one and a half times with the left hand.
Finish in the order 2, 4, 1, 3.

Repeat with new end couples leading.

Recommended tune: Paddy on the Railroad

Parks of Lochabers

A thirty-two bar Reel for three couples in a longwise set.

- 1-8 First and third couples dance a half reel of four progression (turn three quarters with right hand, half reel of four and turn to own side).
- 9-16 Six hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.
- 17-24 Third couple set, cross over giving right hand and cast off into third place, cross back to own side giving left hand and finish facing out; second and first couples step up on bars 21 & 22.
- 25-32 Second, first and third couples dance reels of three on own side of the set; to commence first couple dance in and down.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Parks of Lochabers

The Rambling Pitchfork

A forty-eight bar Jig for three couples in a longwise set.

- 1-8 First lady crosses below second man and casts off behind third man, she then crosses above third lady, casts up to the top and dances in to face second man. At the same time first man crosses below second lady, casts up to the top, crosses below second man, casts off behind third man and dances in to face second man and collect his partner in a promenade hold. Second couple step up on bars 1 & 2.
- 9-12 First couple pass second man by the right to dance a promenade half reel of three with their first corners.
- 13-16 First couple pass third man by the right to dance a half reel of three with their second corners.
- 17-24 First couple lead out to the ladies' side between second and third men, first lady casts up and first man casts down; they meet and lead out to the men's side, first man casts up and first lady casts down, and they dance in to face second man again in a promenade hold. At the same time second and third couples dance rights and lefts.
- 25-32 Repeat bars 9-16, to get corners back to own side.
- 33-36 First lady dances up and casts behind second man into second place whilst first man dances down and casts up behind third lady.
- 37-40 First couple turn one and a half times with the right hand to own side.
- 41-48 Six hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: The Rambling Pitchfork

Regency Reel

A thirty-two bar Reel for three couples in a longwise set.

- 1-4 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel.
- 5-8 First lady and second man retain hands to make an arch, whilst first man, second lady and third couple dance four hands round to the left in a circle round second man and dancing under the arch as they do so.
- 9-12 First and second couples dance left hands across in a wheel.
- 13-16 First man and second lady retain hands to make an arch, whilst first lady, second man and third couple dance four hands round to the right round second lady passing under the arch.
- 17-24 First couple join both hands and dance down the middle with eight slip steps, then dance up the middle with eight slip steps.
- 25-32 First and second couples change places with a poussette.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: The De'il Among the Tailors

Richmora

An eighty bar Jig for three couples in a three couple set.

- 1-8 First couple cast off and turn by the right hand, turn first corner with the left hand and second corner with the right hand to finish in second place on opposite side. Second couple step up on bars 1 & 2.
- 9-14 First couple dance reels of three with their corners passing first corner by the left to start.
- 15-16 First couple turn left hand to face their first corners.
- 17-24 First couple turn corner, partner, corner and partner to finish facing their first corners.
- 25-28 Half reel of four with first corners, passing left shoulder to face second corners.
- 29-32 Half reel of four with second corners, finish facing first corner persons on the opposite side.
- 33-40 Hello-Goodbye setting to finish facing second corner persons.
- 41-52 The Cogwheel:
41-42 first couple change places with second corners giving right hand;
43-44 second corners turn three quarters round with the left hand to face first corners;
45-46 second and third men change places giving right hand, second and third ladies do the same;
47-48 first corners turn left hand three quarters to face first couple;
49-50 first and third ladies change places giving right hand, first and second men do the same;
51-52 first couple turn left hand three quarters to face their second corners (now in first corner position).
- 53-64 Repeat bars 41-52 from new positions.
- 65-70 First couple dance reels of three on opposite sides with corners, passing their second corner by the right to commence.
- 71-72 First couple cross to own side giving right hand in passing and finish facing out.
- 73-74 First couple cast off into third place, third couple step up.
- 75-78 First couple dance a half figure of eight round third couple.
- 79-80 First couple cross to own side giving right hand.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: Richmora

Editor's note to the 2022 edition

The formation described in bars 41 - 52 is not given a name as a distinctive figure in the original edition of this book. However, in preparing the 2022 edition, no corresponding existing figure was found. The editors consider this 12 bar formation deserving of a name, and suggest "The Cogwheel".

Sally Gardens

A thirty-two bar Strathspey for four couples in a longwise set.

- 1-8 First couple cast off to fourth place and lead up to first place; whilst second couple set, cross giving right hand, cast off to fourth place and cross giving right hand to finish facing out. Meanwhile third couple dance a complete figure of eight round second position, commencing by crossing up; at the same time fourth couple turn by the right hand to face out, casting down behind first couple and following first couple up the middle to finish in second place facing out.
- 9-12 Fourth, third and second couples dance half reels of three on their own side of the set, to start third couple dance in and down, second couple finish facing out.
- 13-16 First second and third couples dance half reels of three on the side, to start second couple dance out and up.
- 17-18 All join hands on the side and set.
- 19-22 Second and third couples dance half rights and lefts, first and fourth couples do the same.
- 23-24 All cross over giving right hand in passing.
- 25-32 Eight hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: Down By The Sally Gardens

Spanish Brose

A forty-eight bar Jig for four couples in a longwise set. On the second chord third and fourth couples cross to opposite side.

- 1-4 First and second couples dance half a double figure of eight, first couple cross down to start; whilst third and fourth couples do the same, fourth couple crossing up to start.
- 5-8 First and second men turn one and a half times with the left hand, third and fourth men do the same; first and second ladies turn one and a half times with the right hand, third and fourth ladies do the same. First and fourth couples finish facing out and take a promenade hold with each other's partner.
- 9-12 First man and fourth lady in promenade hold dance a half reel of three with second man and third lady, passing third lady by the right to commence; at the same time their partners dance a similar half reel with second lady and third man passing second lady by the right to start.
- 13-16 First and fourth men exchange partners. Fourth couple dance a half reel of three across with third couple passing third lady left shoulder, whilst first couple do the same with second couple passing second lady left shoulder. First and fourth couples again exchange partners.
- 17-20 Half reels of three on the side, to start first man and fourth lady pass third lady by the right and first lady and fourth man pass second lady by the right.
- 21-24 First and fourth couples again exchange partners. First couple cast up behind second lady, whilst fourth couple cast down behind third lady. Second and third couples stand still. First and fourth couples finish facing up and down,
- 25-32 First and fourth couples dance rights and lefts to finish in second and third place on the sides of the set.
- 33-40 All set pas de basque coupé for eight bars.
- 41-48 First and fourth couples dance an espagnole to change places, they finish facing out ready to repeat.

Repeat with new end couples leading.

Editor's note to the 2022 edition

No tune suggested for this dance in the original edition.

Speyhead

A sixteen bar Strathspey, sixteen bar Reel medley for four couples in a longwise set.

Strathspey

- 1-8 Second and third couples dance a half reel of four progression (three quarter turn with right hand, a half reel of four and turn three quarter right hand to finish back to back in the centre facing nearest corner).
- 9-12 Second and third couples turn their corners with the left hand and then dance right hands across in a wheel half way.
- 13-16 First man, second lady, third man and fourth lady dance a diagonal half reel of four passing left shoulders at the end to start. First lady, second man, third lady and fourth man do the same. All give right hands across when passing in the middle.

Reel

- 17-24 Second and third couples dance double Hello-Goodbye setting (set to corners, opposites, corners, opposites).
- 25-26 Second and fourth men turn with the right hand, first and third ladies do the same, whilst second and fourth ladies turn with the left hand and first and third men do the same. Finish on the sides in the order 4, 2, 3, 1.
- 27-28 All join hands on the sides and set.
- 29-32 Fourth and second couples dance half rights and lefts, third and first couples do the same.

Repeat with new end couples leading.

Recommended tunes: Strathspey: Music of the Spey; Reel: Fitful Head

Tarholm to Glasgow

A sixty-four bar medley for four couples in a longwise set.

Strathspey

- 1-4 First couple cross giving right hand and cast off into second place, second couple step up on bars 3 & 4.
- 5-8 Second, first and third couples join hands on the side and set, then cross giving left hand.
- 9-12 First and third couples dance half a ladies' chain.
- 13-16 All set to partner and turn with the right hand to finish in a square set with the ladies facing out.
- 17-32 Schiehallion reel, the men cross as the ladies cast to follow their partners.
- 33-40 All four couples dance a grand chain.
- 41-48 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right, opening out to finish back in a longwise formation.

Reel

- 49-52 First and third couples dance half a ladies' chain.
- 53-56 First and third couples dance half rights and lefts.
- 57-60 First and fourth couples dance half rights and lefts.
- 61-64 Second and fourth couples dance a half figure of eight round the couple below them crossing down to start.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tunes: Strathspey: Tarholm Brig; Reel: Craighall; Strathspey: Stirling Castle; Reel: Lochiel's Welcome to Glasgow

Tom Thumb

A twenty-four bar Reel for two couples in a longwise set.

- 1-4 Second couple dance a petronella turn and set; first couple step down into second place and set.
- 5-8 First and second couples dance half rights and lefts, to start first lady and second man give right hands as do first man and second lady.
- 9-12 Second couple petronella turn to own side and set whilst first couple cast down then cross up between second couple to original places.
- 13-16 First couple dance a petronella turn into the middle and set; second couple step up and set.
- 17-20 First and second couples dance half rights and lefts; to start first lady and second man give right hand as do first man and second lady.
- 21-24 First couple dance a petronella turn to own side and set. Meanwhile second couple cast down and cross up between first couple to finish on own side.

Repeat with new top couple leading.

Recommended tune: Tom Thumb

I'm The Safest O'The Family

A thirty-two bar Jig for four couples in a longwise set. On the second chord second and third couples cross to opposite side.

- 1-4 First and second couples dance half rights and lefts, third and fourth couples do the same.
- 5-8 First and fourth couples dance half rights and lefts, first lady and fourth man finish facing out.
- 9-16 Reels of four on own side of the set.
- 17-20 Second and fourth couples dance right hands across in a wheel; first and third couples do the same.
- 21-24 Fourth and first couples dance left hands across in a wheel.
- 25-28 Fourth couple dance a half figure of eight round second couple, crossing up to commence, whilst first couple dance a half figure of eight round third couple, crossing down to commence.
- 29-32 All join hands and advance and retire.

Repeat with new end couples.

Recommended tune: I'm The Safest O'The Family

Moving Cloud

A thirty-two bar Reel for four couples in a longwise set. On the second chord, second and third couples cross to opposite side.

- 1-8 First and second couples dance a ladies' chain; third and fourth couples dance a left handed ladies' chain (ladies cross left hand and turn men with the right hand).
- 9-16 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.
- 17-24 Grand chain for four couples, one step to each hand.
- 25-28 First and second couples set and right hands across half way; third and fourth couples do the same.
- 29-32 First and fourth couples left hands across half way, then cross right hand with partner.

Repeat with new end couples.

Recommended tune: Moving Cloud

Editor's note to the 2022 edition

The original ending didn't bring couples 1 & 4 to the correct side to start the next ladies' chain.

Therefore, bars 29-32 have been changed. The original version reads as follows:

- 29-32 All set, first and fourth couples left hands across half way.

Appendix to the new edition: Description of Formations

For ease of reference, all formation descriptions which originally appeared spread throughout the book have been collected here.

Granny knot for three couples

The granny knot is a left handed version of a standard knot.

- 1-2 Turn partners half way with the left hand to finish all facing the top, the men lifting their partner's left hand over their heads into a left handed allemande position.
- 3-5 Fourth couple, followed by third and second couples, curve round and dance down the ladies' side, releasing left hands at the end of bar 5.
- 6 The men, continuing to dance down the ladies' side, begin to turn as they pass their partners across in front of them; the ladies take a long step towards the middle.
- 7-8 All continue to turn with the right hand to own side.

Reversed Quern progression for two couples

- 1-3 First and second couples turn partner with the left hand once round.
- 4-6 First and second couples dance left hands across in a wheel half way.
- 7-8 Second and first couples cross back to own side giving left hand in passing.

This should be danced as a continuous flowing movement in the middle of the set dancers should not return to the side lines at the end of bar 3 or bar 6. After joining hands on bar 1 they should be retained until bar 8 when they will be released during the crossing back to own side of the set.

Version History

1.00 / 2022-12-11 First re-published version.
1.01 / 2024-11-28 Corrected typo in bar 89 of “Out in the Ocean”.