

The Whetherly Book of Scottish Country Dances

Number 14

By John W. Mitchell

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Original Introduction

I have been constrained to write yet another introduction by my many admirers who constantly inform me that this is the best part of the books. It is supposedly the most easily understandable, more amusing and a lot quicker to get through than the dances in them. In an earlier book I indicated that I had been informed that the Saltire Chain was in the Saltire by John Drewry. I now know that this is not so, my apologies to all concerned.

John W. Mitchell (1984)

Introduction to the new edition

Similarly, the acknowledgements are supposedly the most read part of any PhD thesis, for much the same reasons. They are the most easily understandable and can be a lot more amusing than the body of research contained within.

On that note, I'd like to thank Viktor Lehmann for getting this project off the ground and his consistent help as we progress through the Whetherly collection, updating terminology and carefully checking the dance instructions. In 2020, he was the well-deserved recipient of the RSCDS Central Germany branch award. Thanks also to the team of volunteers who helped to proofread the scans (names are included in the front matter of the corresponding books), to Keith Rose for producing diagrams and to Roland Telle for work on the E-cribs. Last but not least, thanks to you, dear reader and dancer; the primary aim of this project is to ensure the longevity of the Whetherly collection by reaching a new audience with these rejuvenated digitised versions. Every time one of these books is downloaded and read, or a Whetherly dance is danced, we are fulfilling that aim. Writing this during the 2020-2021 pandemic, I look forward to us all dancing again.

Alison M. W. Mitchell (2025)

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.



Alison and Sandy Grant

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

- 1-4 All cross giving right hands and set.
- 5-6 All cross giving right hands, second couple remain facing out.
- 7-8 Balance in line.
- 9-10 First and second ladies change places with left hand, whilst first and second men change places with the right hand.
- 11-12 All balance in line.
- 13-16 First and second couples dance half a double figure of eight.
- 17-18 First man and third lady change places with the right hand, whilst first lady and third man change places with the left hand.
- 19-20 All balance in line.
- 21-24 First and third couples dance half a double figure of eight.
- 25-28 First couple cross up diagonally between third couple to dance a half reel of three on the opposite side of the set. Order is now 1, 3, 2, all on opposite side.
- 29-32 Six hands round to the left in a circle half way. Finish in the order 2, 3, 1.

Repeat with a new top couple.

Recommended tune: Alison and Sandy Grant

Archibald Minto

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

- 1-2 First and third couples cross over giving right hands in passing to finish facing out.
- 3-6 Second couple pass the person on their right by the right shoulder to dance half reels of three on the sides of the set.
- 7-10 First and third men turn with the right hand one and a half times to change places, first and third ladies do the same, to finish with first couple facing up and third couple facing down. Meanwhile second couple turn one and a quarter times with the left hand to finish with second lady between first couple facing down and second man between third couple facing up.
- 11-14 Second couple pass the person on their right by the right shoulder to dance reels of three across the set half way.
- 15-16 All turn own partner with the right hand to original places.
- 17-24 Six hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.
- 25-32 First couple cross over giving right hand, cast off into second place, second couple step up; first couple then dance a half figure of eight round second couple.

Repeat from second place. At the end of this repeat the dancing couple may cross over giving left hand on bars 29-30 and then cast below fourth couple on the last two steps.

Recommended tune: Archibald Minto

Archie Patterson

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

- 1-4 First couple cross below second couple, cast up to the top and lead down to finish between second couple, all facing down.
- 5-8 First and second couples dance down the middle, turning individually by the right to face up on bar eight.
- 9-12 First and second couples dance up the middle, second couple finish in first place.
- 13-16 First couple cross back to own sides above second couple, cast into second place and cross to finish facing their first corners.
- 17-18 Turn first corners with the right hand, then join left hands.
- 19-22 First couple balance in line with their first corners. Meanwhile second corners dance half way round in a clockwise circle to change places passing under the arches made by the raised right hands of the balancing line.
- 23-24 First couple turn three quarters with the left hand to finish facing their second corner person (first man is facing second lady in third man's place).
- 25-32 Repeat with second corners. I.e. first couple turn corners and balance in line, whilst first corners change places, then turn three quarters left hand to face first corner person.
- 33-36 Half a reel of four with first corners, passing left shoulder at the end to face second corners.
- 37-40 Half a reel of four with second corners.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Archie Patterson

The Auld Inn

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

- 1-8 First couple dance down the middle and back.
- 9-16 First couple cast into second place, second couple step up, dance a half figure of eight round third couple and cross to finish in second place facing out.
- 17-20 Second and third couples dance half rights and lefts, whilst first couple cast slowly round their partner's first corner position to finish facing up and down the set.
- 21-24 First couple turn with the left hand to finish facing their own first corner person, who is in their partner's first corner position.
- 25-28 Half reel of four with first corners.
- 29-32 Half a reel of four with second corners.
- 33-40 Six hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: The Auld Inn

Black Boy

A thirty-two bar Reel for two couples in a circle round the room, each man with his partner on his right.

- 1-8 Rights and lefts.
- 9-12 The men turn with the right hand one and a quarter times to finish, facing opposite lady.
- 13-16 All dance a half left shoulder reel of four, to finish with the two couples having swapped places..
- 17-20 The two ladies turn with the right hand one and a quarter times to finish, facing own partner.
- 21-24 All dance a half left shoulder reel of four to finish in original places.
- 25-26 Change places with partner by turning half way with left hand, ladies finish facing out.
- 27-28 The ladies cast into own place whilst the men turn with the left hand once round to finish diagonally between the ladies.
- 29-32 The men take the ladies' left hands in their right and advance with partner, passing opposing couple by the left, to finish facing the next couple and set.

Repeat with new opposite couple.

Recommended tune: Black Boy

The Captain's Balls

A sixteen bar Strathspey, sixteen bar Reel Medley for three couples in a longwise set.

Strathspey

- 1-4 First lady casts off, second lady stepping up, and turns third man by the right hand.
- 5-8 First lady, second man and third couple dance four hands round to the left in a circle.
- 9-12 First man casts off, second man stepping up, and turns third lady with the left hand.
- 13-16 First and third couples dance four hands round to the right in a circle.

Reel

- 1-8 First couple cross passing by the left shoulder to pass first corner by the right and dance a figure of eight round their corners to finish in second place in the middle of the set, facing their opposite side.
- 9-16 First man dances right hands across in a wheel and back with the left hand with third couple, whilst first lady does the same with second couple. First couple finish in second place on own sides, first lady facing out.

Repeat from second place, at the end first couple finish facing out and cast below third couple as the new first lady commences.

Recommended tunes: Strathspey: Margaret's Fancy; Reel: The Mill Brig

Note

The Captain's Balls are two silver-plated golf balls which are suspended from crossed golf clubs in a well-known golf club in St. Andrews. It is understood that new club members are expected to kiss them on joining.

Cross at Inverness

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

- 1-8 First couple set, turn with the right hand, cast into second place (second couple step up) and turn with the left hand to finish back to back facing own sides of the set.
- 9-16 Double Triangles to finish in second place on own side.
- 17-20 Six hands round to the left in a circle half way, second and third couples finish facing up and down in the centre of the set.
- 21-24 Second and third couples dance half rights and lefts to finish in their original places facing out.
- 25-30 First couple pass their second corners by the right shoulder to dance reels of three on the sides.
- 31-32 First couple cross to own sides giving right hands.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Cross at Inverness

Davie Work

A one hundred and ninety-two bar Reel for four couples in a square set.

First figure

- 1-2 All join two hands with partner and slip outwards.
- 3-4 All cast away from partner to meet corners.
- 5-6 All join two hands with corners and slip back to original places.
- 7-8 All join hands in a circle and set.
- 9-12 The men cast behind their partners and dance in to give right hands across in a wheel, joining nearer hands with partner as they do so.
- 13-16 Dance a grand star, right hands across half way to finish in opposite positions.
- 17-24 The ladies dance a figure of eight round their partners and their corners, dancing in front of their partner to commence.
- 25-32 The men dance a figure of eight round their partners and their corners, similarly dancing in front of their partners to commence.

Second figure

- 1-2 First couple advance into the centre of the set.
- 3-4 First man slips to his left between second couple, first lady slips to her right between fourth couple and third couple advances into the centre of the set.
- 5-6 First man and third lady dance right hands across in a wheel with second couple half way. Meanwhile first lady and third man dance left hands across in a wheel half way with fourth couple.
- 7-8 First couple lead to third place and face out; third couple cast up into first place and face in; second couple turn half way with the right hand to finish behind first man, second lady in front of second man, and fourth couple turn half way with the left hand to finish behind first lady, fourth man in front of fourth lady. All are now facing down the room.
- 9-16 First couple, leading their lines, cast to top place then dance down to finish by opening out into two facing lines (as in a longwise set; third couple in top place on opposite sides, second man opposite fourth lady in second place, second lady opposite fourth man in third place and first couple on own sides in fourth place).
- 17-20 All advance and retire.
- 21-24 First couple dance right hands across in a wheel with second lady and fourth man, whilst third couple do likewise with second man and fourth lady.
- 25-32 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

This figure is repeated in turn with the second, third and fourth couples leading.

Third figure

- 1-16 Repeat bars 17-32 of the first figure.
- 17-20 The ladies cast behind their partners and dance in to give left hands across in a wheel, joining nearer hands with their partners as they do so.
- 21-24 Dance a grand star, left hands across half way to finish in original places.
- 25-32 Repeat bars 1-8 of the first figure.

Recommended tune: Davie Work

Don's Favourite

A thirty-two bar Reel for three couples in a longwise set.
First couple cross to the opposite side on the second chord.

- 1-4 First and third couples set advancing, joining right hands with partner, the men join left hands and they balance in line.
- 5-8 The men turn towards their partners to take a promenade hold, first couple cast behind second lady to finish in third place (still on the opposite sides) as third couple cast up behind second man to finish in first place (on own sides).
- 9-12 First and third couples again set advancing to join right hands with partner, the ladies join left hands and they balance in line.
- 13-16 The ladies turn towards their partners to take a promenade hold, third couple cast behind second lady to original places, whilst first couple cast up to the top behind second man to finish still on the opposite sides.
- 17-24 First couple dance down the middle and back, still on the opposite sides.
- 25-32 First and second couples change places with a poussette.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Don's Favourite

Editor's note to the 2025 edition

After completing their turn, the first couple must change back to own sides. Similarly, the new dancing couple must remember to change to the opposite side before starting their turn as first couple.

Doon the Burn Davie Lad

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

- 1-4 The men advance for two steps, turn to their left and retire to finish, having moved one position anticlockwise, whilst the ladies cast round their partner's place to the next lady's position. All are now opposite their partners.
- 5-8 The ladies advance for two steps, turn to their right and retire, whilst the men cast anticlockwise. All finish on the opposite side of the set.
- 9-10 First and third couples advance.
- 11-12 First and third couples collect second and fourth couples in two straight lines and all retire to finish facing up and down.
- 13-16 All set and cross, giving right hand with opposite person; finish back in the square, men have their partners on their left.
- 17-24 Repeat with second and fourth couples leading; they advance collect first and third couples, all retire, set and cross right hand to original places.
- 25-32 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.
- 33-36 First and third couples dance right hands across in a wheel.
- 37-40 First man and third lady dance left hands across in a wheel with second couple, whilst first lady and third man do the same with fourth couple. Second and fourth couples finish facing out, with others behind them.
- 41-44 Second and fourth couples cast away from own partner and dance in to meet in original places; first man leads third lady out to second place as third man leads first lady out to fourth place, these couples similarly separate and cast to meet partner in original places.
- 45-48 All turn partner with the right hand once round and set.
- 49-64 Repeat, sixteen bars, second and fourth couples dancing in to give right hands across to commence.
- 65-72 First man and fourth lady dance a double figure of eight round their partners, passing in front of own partner to commence. Third man and second lady do the same.
- 73-80 First lady and second man dance a figure of eight round their partners, passing in front of own partner to start. Third lady and fourth man do the same.
- 81-84 All turn partner one and a quarter times with two hands, men finish in the centre of the set, ladies on the outside with nearer hands joined all facing clockwise.
- 85-88 Men give right hands across and all dance round in a grand star half way.
- 89-92 All turn partner with two hands one and a half times to bring the ladies into the centre, all facing anticlockwise with nearer hands joined with partner.
- 93-96 The ladies give left hands across and all dance a grand star half way round. The ladies finish back to back in the centre facing partners.

Recommended tune: Doon The Burn Davie Lad

Dunie Mains

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

- 1-4 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel; third and fourth couples do the same.
- 5-8 Second and third couples dance left hands across in a wheel whilst first and fourth couples dance clockwise half way round the set.
- 9-16 Repeat bars 1-8, fourth and second couples dancing right hands across as do third and first couples to commence.
- 17-20 All set and cross over giving right hand.
- 21-24 All set and turn partner with two hands to finish in two diagonal lines with first lady and second man back to back, third lady and fourth man similarly placed.
- 25-28 First and second couples dance a half poussette, third and fourth couples do the same. On the last bar first and fourth couples again finish on a diagonal line with first lady and fourth man back to back.
- 29-32 First and fourth couples dance a half poussette.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: Dunie Mains

Elegant Esther Gray

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

- 1-8 First couple turn with the right hand and cast off (second couple step up); turn with the left hand one and a half times to finish facing first corners.
- 9-16 First couple dance Hello-Goodbye setting to finish back to back facing second corners.
- 17-24 First couple dance a complete reel of four with second corners, passing left shoulders to finish facing their first corners.
- 25-32 First couple dance a complete reel of four with their first corners to finish in second place on the opposite side facing out (if possible finish the reel passing left shoulder to get there).
- 33-40 First couple cast off (third couple do not step up), cross giving right hand; cast up into second place on own sides and set.

Repeat from second place. On the last eight bars, first couple cast off (third couple step up), dance a half figure of eight round third couple (crossing up to start) so as to finish at the foot and set.

Recommended tune: Elegant Esther Gray

Gallaton

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

- 1-2 First couple cross passing by the right.
- 3-4 First man changes places with second lady giving right hand whilst first lady changes places with second man giving left hand.
- 5-6 First couple cross passing by the right.
- 7-8 First and third ladies change places giving right hand whilst first and third men change places giving left hand.
- 9-12 Six hands round to the left half way in a circle.
- 13-16 First couple cast off two places, below second couple. Third and second couple step up on bars 13 & 14.
- 17-20 Six hands round to the right half way in a circle.
- 21-24 First couple cast into second place (second couple step up on bars 21 & 22) and dance to first corner, passing partner by the right shoulder.
- 25-32 Turn corners, partner, second corners and partner.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Gallaton

Golden Harvest

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

- 1-4 First and second couples set and dance four hands round in a circle to the left half way.
Second couple finish facing out.
- 5-8 First couple lead up between second couple with nearer hand joined and cast into second place on the opposite side; as they do so they turn the second couple with nearer hands.
- 9-12 First couple dance a half a figure of eight round second couple, crossing up to commence; whilst second couple set and cross over giving right hand.
- 13-20 First couple cross over giving right hand in passing to dance a figure of eight round their corners, casting behind second corners to commence and finishing in second place on the opposite side facing out.
- 21-24 First man dances left hands across with second couple whilst first lady dances left hands across with third couple. First couple finish in second place on their own sides.
- 25-32 First and second couples dance rights and lefts.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Golden Harvest

Editor's note to the 2025 edition

Bars 1-8 have been modified with respect to the original description, as it is not possible for the first and second couples to retain hands during the cast as described.

The original bars 1-8 read:

- 1-4 First and second couples set and dance four hands round in a circle to the left half way.
Second couple release partner's hand.
- 5-8 First couple lead up between second couple with nearer hand joined and cast into second place on the opposite side; as they do so they retain the nearer hand of second couple so as to turn second couple.

The Hare Among the Corn

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

- 1-2 First couple dance right hands across in a wheel half way with second lady, first man finishes in second lady's place.
- 3-4 First and second ladies turn half way with the right hand to finish in first place, first lady on own side.
- 5-8 First and second couples turn own partner once round with the left hand.
- 9-10 First couple dance left hands across in a wheel half way with second man who finishes in first lady's place.
- 11-12 First couple turn with left hand to finish in second place on the opposite side.
- 13-16 First and second couples turn partner one and a half times with the right hand to finish on own sides.
- 17-24 Four hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.
- 25-32 First and second couples dance rights and lefts.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: The Hare Among the Corn

Hielan Brochan

A one hundred and twenty-eight bar Reel for four couples in a square set.

- 1-2 First and third men turn three quarters with the right hand to pass their partners by the right shoulder.
- 3-4 First and third men dance through original places as first and third ladies turn with the right hand to pass their partners by the right shoulder.
- 5-6 First and third men turn three quarters with their right hands as first and third ladies cast into their partners' places.
- 7-8 First and third men dance out to the sidelines to face clockwise as their partners dance into the centre. The ladies join left hands giving right hands to own partners.
- 9-10 First and third couples balance in line.
- 11-12 First and third couples turn partner half way with right hand.
- 13-14 First and third couples balance in line.
- 15-16 First and third couples turn partner three quarters with right hand to original places.
- 17-20 First and third couples dance half rights and lefts, to finish facing corners.
- 21-22 All turn corners with the right hand.
- 23-24 All turn partner with the left hand.
- 25-32 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.
- 33-34 First and third couples advance, collect second and fourth couples in facing lines.
- 35-36 All retire.
- 37-38 First and third couples advance.
- 39-40 First man lead third lady out to fourth place to finish back to back between fourth couple; third man similarly leads first lady out to finish back to back between second couple.
- 41-44 Half reels of four on the sides of the set.
- 45-46 First and third couples change places with own partner giving right hand whilst second and fourth couples set.
- 47-48 First and third couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way to finish with first couple in third place and third couple in first place, whilst second and fourth couples turn partner half way with the right hand to original places.
- 49-64 Repeat bars 17-32 to bring first and third couples back to their original places.

- 65-128 Repeat the whole dance, with second and fourth couples leading.

Recommended tune: Hielan Brochan

Hills of Lorne

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

- 1-8 First couple cast off to dance a figure of eight round second and fourth couples on own side of the set; whilst third couple lead up between second couple to dance a similar figure of eight on own side.
- 9-10 First and fourth couples turn partners three quarters round with two hands to finish in a line up and down the centre of the set, hands joined to make arches.
- 11-16 Second and third couples dance round in a clockwise circle passing under the arches made by first and fourth couples as they do so.
- 17-24 First and fourth couples dance a reel of four.
- 25-28 First and fourth couples turn three quarters with the right hand and cast (first couple casting down, fourth couple casting up) on the opposite side of the set; second couple step up and third couple step down.
- 29-30 First and fourth couples dance left hands across in a wheel half way.
- 31-32 All join hands on the side and set.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: The Hills of Lorne

Inverquharity Castle

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

- 1-8 First couple cross giving right hand to commence mirror reels of three on the opposite sides of the set. To finish, first couple commence to cast down, second couple following and third couple facing up.
- 9-12 First man dances three hands round to the left with second and third ladies; whilst first lady dances three hands round to the right with second and third men. Second and third couples, retaining nearer hands and making arches, finish facing sidelines, back to back with own partner.
- 13-14 First couple cross to own side giving right hand and passing under arches made by second and third couples as they dance out to own places on the sidelines.
- 15-16 First couple cast up into first place on own side.
- 17-24 First and second couples set and cross over giving right hand in passing. They set again and dance right hands across in a wheel half way.
- 25-32 Six hands round to the left in a wheel and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Inverquharity Castle

Jim Kennedy's Jig

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

- 1-8 First and second couples dance a double figure of eight, to commence first couple cross down. First couple finish by dancing in between second couple to form a straight line across the set, all facing down.
- 9-10 First and second couples set.
- 11-12 First and second couples dance down to third place, where the ladies turn to their left to face up and the men turn to their right to face up. Meanwhile third couple cast up into second place.
- 13-16 The ladies dance three hands round to the right whilst the men dance three hands round to the left. After dancing once round, the second couple opens up the circle, dancing up on own side to finish in top place, first couple in second place.
- 17-24 First couple cross above second couple to dance reels of three on the opposite side.
- 25-32 First couple cross back above second couple to dance reels of three on own side of the set.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Jim Kennedy's Jig

Joe Foster's Jig

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

- 1-4 First lady casts off two places to finish between third couple facing up; first man dances down below second man and casts up to finish between second couple facing down, whilst second couple step up on bars 1 & 2. All three couples face up and down.
- 5-8 Second and third ladies dance back to back; second and third men do the same, as do first couple.
- 9-14 First couple pass the person on their right by the right shoulder to dance reels of three across the set, first man with second couple and first lady with third couple.
- 15-16 First couple turn with the left hand to finish in second place on the opposite side facing out.
- 17-24 First couple pass first corners by the right shoulder to dance a reel of three on the sides; second and third couples dance in at the end of the reel to finish facing up and down the centre of the set.
- 25-28 Second and third couples dance half rights and lefts.
- 29-32 Six hands round to the left half way.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Joe Foster's Jig

Note

On bars 15-16 whilst first couple are turning, second and third couples should continue to dance round so that the reels of three across flow naturally into the reels of three on the sides.

John Donald of Coullie

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

- 1-4 First lady turns second man with the right hand.
- 5-8 First lady casts behind second lady and dances up to place whilst second man casts up and dances down to place.
- 9-12 First man and second lady turn with the left hand.
- 13-16 First man casts behind second man and dances up to place, whilst second lady casts up and dances down to place.
- 17-24 First man, followed by his partner, casts off, dances up between second couple crossing to the opposite side, casts off behind second lady and crosses to own side; second couple step up on bars 23 & 24.
- 25-32 Reels of three on the side; first couple pass third by the left shoulder to commence.
- 33-36 First lady dances right hands across with second couple, whilst first man and third couple do the same.
- 37-40 Six hands round to the left in a circle half way.
- 41-44 First lady dances left hands across with third couple and first man does the same with the second.
- 45-48 Six hands round to the right in a circle half way.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: John Donald of Coullie

Kilwinning Archers

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

- 1-4 First couple dance a half figure of eight round second couple, finishing by leading down between second couple to form a line across the set, all facing down with nearer hands joined.
- 5-8 First and second couples advance and retire.
- 9-12 First couple cross back to own side and cast up to original places.
- 13-16 First couple cross giving right hands and cast into second place, second couple stepping up.
- 17-20 All three couples advance and retire.
- 21-24 All three couples turn partner with two hands, second and third couples finish facing up and down in the centre of the set.
- 25-28 Second and third couples dance half rights and lefts.
- 29-32 Six hands round to the left in a circle half way.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Kilwinning Archers

Lady Doune

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

- 1-4 First and second couples dance half rights and lefts; third and fourth couples do the same; on bar 4 first and fourth couples pass by the left shoulder on the sides to finish 2, 4, 1, 3 on the opposite side.
- 5-8 Half reels of four on the sides of the set.
- 9-16 Repeat from new places, finishing in the order 4, 3, 2, 1.
- 17-18 All turn partner with two hands.
- 19-20 First and second couples dance four hands round to the left half way, third and fourth couples do the same.
- 21-24 All turn partner one and a half times to finish, third couple in first place on own side, second couple in fourth place on own side, fourth and first couples in the centre of the set facing up with a promenade hold.
- 25-32 Fourth and first couples dance an allemande.
Finish in the order 3, 1, 4, 2.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: Lady Doune

Lass O'Corrie's Mill

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

- 1-2 First man and second lady change places giving right hand.
- 3-4 First lady and second man repeat.
- 5-8 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way and set.
- 9-12 First and second couples dance half rights and lefts.
- 13-16 First and second couples cross to own sides and set.
- 17-20 First lady and second couple dance right hands across in a wheel, first man and third couple do the same.
- 21-24 Six hands round to the left in a circle, three quarters round to finish in lines across the set, ladies facing down and men facing up.
- 25-28 First lady with third couple dance left hands across in a wheel on the ladies' side whilst first man and second couple do the same on men's side.
- 29-32 Six hands round to the right in a circle to finish all on own side of the set.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Lass O'Corrie's Mill

The Man from North Connel

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

- 1-4 First man casts off two places to finish between third couple, all facing up; second couple step up on bars 1 & 2, first lady dances down in front of second lady and casts up to finish between second couple, all facing down.
- 5-8 All advance and retire.
- 9-14 First couple pass the person on their right by the right shoulder to dance reels of three across the set, first lady with second couple and first man with third couple.
- 15-16 First couple turn with the left hand to finish in second place on own side, facing out.
- 17-20 First lady dances right hands across in a wheel with third couple, whilst first man and second couple do the same; first couple passes right shoulder at the end.
- 21-24 First lady dances left hands across in a wheel with second couple and first man with third couple; first couple passes left shoulder to finish on own side facing out.
- 25-32 First couple dance figures of eight on own side of the set, casting down round third place to commence; at the same time second and third couples dance rights and lefts.

Repeat from second place. At the end of the repeat first couple lead down between second and third places to finish at the foot during the last two bars of their figure eight.

Recommended tune: The Man From North Connel

Master Frazer Johnstone

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

- 1-8 First couple set, then first lady, followed by her partner, casts off two places and dances up the middle to finish between second couple facing second man, first man finishes between third couple facing third lady.
- 9-16 First lady dances a reel of three with second couple passing second man by the left to start, whilst first man dances a reel of three with third couple passing third lady by the right to start; first couple finish back to back, lady facing up and man facing down.
- 17-22 First lady circles to the left one and a half times round with second couple, whilst first man does the same with third couple.
- 23-24 First couple cross giving right hand to finish back to back with first man facing up and first lady facing down.
- 25-30 First man circles to the right with second couple one and a half times round, whilst first lady does the same with third couple.
- 31-32 First couple turn three quarters with the right hand to second place on own side of the set.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Master Frazer Johnstone

Miss Agnes Loudon

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

- 1-8 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way and set; they dance back with the left hands and then change places giving left hands on the sides.
- 9-16 First couple cross over giving right hand in passing, cast round their first corners to face up and down; change places giving right hand and cast round their second corners to finish in second place on the opposite side.
- 17-20 Six hands round to the left in a circle half way; second and third couples finish facing up and down in the centre of the set.
- 21-24 Second and third couples dance half rights and lefts to finish on their own sides facing out.
- 25-32 First couple dance reels of three on their own side of the set with second and third couples, passing the person on their left by the left shoulder to start.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Miss Agnes Loudon

More Toast for the Boys

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

- 1-4 First and second couples dance four hands round to the left in a circle half way, then, releasing his partner's hand, first man slips down the ladies' side of the set into fourth place, drawing the line after him to finish all on the ladies' side; at the same time, third and fourth couples do the same, dancing a half circle, then fourth lady leading the line up the men's side of the set.
- 5-8 Half reels of four on the sides of the set, first and second couples on ladies' side and third and fourth couples on the men's side.
- 9-12 Giving right hands on the side to commence, the four ladies dance half rights and lefts; the men do the same.
- 13-24 Repeat the first twelve bars from new positions. (Second man leads the men's circle down the ladies' side, as third lady leads the ladies' circle up the men's side.) All finish in original places.
- 25-32 First couple cast off behind second couple, cross giving right hand, cast behind third couple, cross giving left hand and cast off into fourth place. The other three couples join hands on the side and step up on the last two bars.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: More Toast For The Boys

Mr. Compton

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

- 1-4 First and second men join nearer hands and set advancing, as do second and third ladies; second couple join their right hands, and all set.
- 5-8 First man, followed by second man, crosses and casts down behind first lady, crosses to own side and up to place. Meanwhile third lady, followed by second lady, crosses and casts up round third man, crosses back to own side and down to place.
- 9-12 First and second ladies and second and third men set advancing, second couple join left hand and they set in line.
- 13-16 First lady, followed by second lady, casts down behind first man and dances up to place, whilst third man, followed by second man, casts up behind third lady and dances down to place.
- 17-24 First couple cross over giving right hand, cast off behind second couple, who step up, dance down between third couple and cast up into second place still on the opposite sides.
- 25-28 Six hands round to the left in a circle half way, second and third couples finish facing up and down in the centre of the set.
- 29-32 Second and third couples dance half rights and lefts.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Mr. Compton

Mrs. Monair of Bruach

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

- 1-4 First man casts below second man and turns third lady with the right hand; second man steps up on bars 1 & 2.
- 5-8 First man, second lady and third couple circle round to the left.
- 9-10 First lady casts off; second lady steps up.
- 11-12 First lady turns third man with the left hand.
- 13-16 First and third couples circle round to the right.
- 17-20 First couple set and turn with the right hand to face their first corners.
- 21-24 Turn first corners with the left hand and partner with the right hand to face second corners.
- 25-28 Turn second corners with the left hand and partner three quarters with the right hand to finish in second place on own side facing out.
- 29-32 First man casts up round second man to finish between second couple facing second lady. Meanwhile first lady casts down round third lady to finish between third couple facing third man.
- 33-38 Reels of three across the dance, dancing couple pass the person they are facing by the left shoulder to commence; they finish facing up and down the set.
- 39-40 First couple change places giving right hand in passing.
- 41-46 Reels of three across the dance, first and third men pass by the right to commence, as do first and second ladies; first couple finish in second place on opposite side.
- 47-48 First couple cross to own side giving right hand in passing. First man finishes facing out ready to start again.

Repeat from second place. At the end of the repeat first couple remain facing out and cast to the foot as the new couple commences.

Recommended tune: Mrs. Monair of Bruach

My Dungannon Sweetheart

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

- 1-8 First couple dance down the middle and back.
- 9-16 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way and set; they dance left hands across in a wheel half way to finish facing up and down and then change places on the sides giving left hands.
- 17-24 Reels of three on the sides, first and third couples pass by the right shoulder to commence.
- 25-32 Six hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: My Dungannon Sweetheart

The Parson

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

- 1-8 First couple cross below second couple and cast behind third couple, dance up between third couple, cast up behind second couple and cross back to own side giving right hand and finish facing out.
- 9-16 First couple cast off, cross over giving left hand, cast up to the top and cross down to second place on own sides; second couple cast up into top place on bars 15 & 16.
- 17-20 All three couples join hands on the sides and set twice.
- 21-24 First couple with their first corners advance and retire diagonally.
- 25-28 First couple with their first corners dance right hands across in a wheel, first couple finishing back to back with third corner, join nearer hands with first corner, raising the arms to make an arch; first couple are now facing their fourth corners.
- 29-32 Second corners advance and retire diagonally under the arches; first couple and their first corners dance out to finish on the sidelines on bars 31 & 32.
- 33-36 All join hands on the sides and set twice.
- 37-40 First couple with their second corners advance and retire diagonally.
- 41-44 First couple with their second corners dance left hands across in a wheel, as previously, finish back to back making arches facing third corners.
- 45-48 First corners advance and retire under the arches; first couple and their second corners dance out to finish on the sidelines on bars 47 & 48.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: The Parson

Editor's note to the 2025 edition

The original version didn't bring first couple to the correct side at the end. To retain the movement as described from bar 17 onwards, bars 9-16 have been changed. Subsequently, some modifications to the description from bar 17 onwards were necessary. The original version reads as follows:

- 9-16 First couple cast off, cross over giving left hand, cast up to the top and dance down to second place on the opposite sides; second couple cast up into top place on bars 15 & 16.
(...)
- 25-28 First couple with their first corners dance right hands across in a wheel, first couple finishing back to back with own first corner, join nearer hands with partner's corner, raising the arms to make an arch; first couple are now facing their second corners.
- 29-32 Second corners advance and retire diagonally under the arches; all finish on the sidelines.
(...)
- 41-44 First couple with their second corners dance left hands across in a wheel, as previously, finish back to back making arches facing first corners.
- 45-48 First corners advance and retire under the arches.

The Standard

A forty bar Strathspey for four couples in a longwise set.

- 1-4 First and second couples dance half rights and lefts, first man and second lady finishing facing out; third and fourth couples do the same.
- 5-8 First and second couples dance a half a reel of four across the set; to start first lady and second man pass by the right as their partners cast round to the left to follow; third and fourth couples do the same. All finish in original places, with the same four dancers still facing out.
- 9-16 Reels of four on the sides; to commence second and third couples pass by the right shoulder in the middle. First man and fourth lady finish facing out.
- 17-24 Second and third couples dance right hands across in a wheel and back with the left hand. Meanwhile first and fourth couples dance round in an anticlockwise circle to finish all in original places.
- 25-32 First couple set, cast off behind second couple, cross down between third couple, cast off below fourth couple and cross back to own sides giving left hand in passing. Second, third and fourth couples step up on bars 27 & 28.
- 33-40 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Repeat with a new top couple.

Recommended tune: The Standard On The Braes Of Mar

The Wind That Shakes The Piggery

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

- 1-8 First couple cross below second couple, first man dances a half figure of eight round third couple and casts behind third man to finish between third couple facing up, whilst first lady completes a figure of eight round second couple to finish between them facing down.
- 9-16 First couple change places giving left hand, first man casts down round second man whilst first lady casts up round third lady; first man dances a half figure of eight round second couple, whilst first lady dances similarly round third couple to finish in second place on the opposite side.
- 17-24 First couple pass their first corners by the left shoulder to commence reels of three on the sides with their corners.
- 25-28 Six hands round to the left in a circle half way; second and third couples finish facing up and down in the centre of the set.
- 29-32 Second and third couples dance half rights and lefts.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: The Wind That Shakes The Piggery

Forgan Bank

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

- 1-2 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way.
- 3-4 First and second ladies change places giving right hand, as first and second men do the same.
- 5-6 First and second couples give left hands across in a wheel half way.
- 7-8 First couple turn half way with left hand to finish facing their first corners.
- 9-16 Turn first corners with the right hand, partner left hand, second corners right hand and partner left hand to finish facing first corners.
- 17-24 Reels of three with corners, passing first corner by the left to commence.
- 25-28 Six hands round to the left in a circle half way; second and third couples finish facing up and down the set.
- 29-32 Second and third couples dance half rights and lefts.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Forgan Bank

Hagg's Castle

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

- 1-4 First and second couples dance half rights and lefts; first man and second lady finish facing out.
- 5-8 First lady and second man pass by the right shoulder as their partners cast to their left to commence a half reel of four across the dance; all finish in their original places.
- 9-12 First and second couples dance left hands across in a wheel.
- 13-14 First and second ladies change places left hand, whilst first and second men do the same.
- 15-16 First couple turn with the right hand to face first corners.
- 17-22 Hello-Goodbye setting to first corners, partner and second corners.
- 23-24 Turn three quarters with the right hand to own side.
- 25-32 Six hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Hagg's Castle

Jamie Shearer

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

- 1-4 First couple cross below second couple to dance a half reel of three on the opposite side of the set.
- 5-8 Third and second couples dance half a double figure of eight to finish on the opposite side of the set.
- 9-12 Half reels of three, all on the opposite sides; second couple dance out and down to commence. The order is now 1, 2, 3, all on opposite sides.
- 13-16 All set and turn half way into a promenade hold facing the top.
- 17-24 Three couples promenade; first and second couples finish in the centre of the set.
- 25-32 First and second couples allemande.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Jamie Shearer

Little Pickle

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

- 1-4 First couple cross below second couple to dance a half reel of three on the opposite side of the set.
- 5-8 First and second couples dance half a double figure of eight.
- 9-12 First couple cross up between second couple to dance a half reel of three on the opposite side of the set.
- 13-16 First and second couples dance half a double figure of eight.
- 17-24 First couple dance down the middle and back.
- 25-32 First and second couples poussette.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Little Pickle

Luss Road

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

- 1-4 Half reels of three on own side of the set, first couple dance in and down to start.
- 5-8 First and second couples dance half a double figure of eight.
- 9-12 Half reels of three on the side; first couple dance in and up to commence.
- 13-16 First and second couples dance half a double figure of eight.
- 17-24 First couple cross over giving right hand in passing, cast off and turn twice with the left hand to finish facing first corners.
- 25-32 Turn corner, partner, corner, partner.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Luss Road

Partans In His Creel

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

- 1-4 First and second couples set and cross over giving right hand to finish facing up and down the set.
- 5-8 First and second men set and change places giving right hand; first and second ladies do the same; first lady and second man finish facing out.
- 9-12 First man and second lady pass by the left shoulder to commence a reel of four across the set half way, whilst their partners cast to their right to join the reel.
- 13-16 First and second couples dance four hands round to the left in a circle.
- 17-18 First couple cast into second place as second couple lead up to the top.
- 19-24 First couple cross over giving right hand, turn first corners with the left hand and second corners with the right hand to finish in second place on the opposite side.
- 25-28 Six hands round to the left in a circle half way; second and third couples finish facing up and down in the centre of the set.
- 29-32 Second and third couples dance half rights and lefts.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Partans In His Creel

The Water Mill

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

On the second chord second, fourth and sixth couples cross to the opposite sides of the set.

- 1-4 First and second couples dance half rights and lefts; third and fourth couples likewise, as do fifth and sixth.
- 5-8 First and second couples dance half a ladies' chain; third and fourth couples likewise, as do fifth and sixth. All finish facing away from partner, with first, third and fifth couples on the ladies side and second, fourth and sixth couples on the men's side, all men left of their partner.
- 9-16 Half a grand chain for six couples.
- 17-24 Set and turn corner (person facing) with right hand, set to and turn partner with the left hand three quarters round; the men all join right hands across in a wheel of six; the ladies retain partners' left hands and then join right hands with the left hands of the couple behind their partner so as to form a circle.
- 25-32 Mill Wheel: the ladies dance round in a circle half way with slip steps, turning the men's wheel, who set with pas de basque as their wheel is turned. On the last two bars the men dance out between their partner and the lady on her left, all releasing hands to finish back in two lines in the same positions as at the end of bar 8.
- 33-36 First and second couples dance half a men's chain; third and fourth couples do the same, as do fifth and sixth.
- 37-40 All set and cross over, giving right hand in passing; first couple finish facing out.
- 41-48 First couple cast below second couple, cross below third couple, cast below fourth couple, cross below fifth couple and cast behind sixth couple into sixth place; the other five couples join hands on the sides and step up on bars 47 & 48.

Repeat with a new top couple.

Recommended tune: Cave Hill

Note

The dancers use the men's chain on bars 33-36 to return to the longwise set, setting in straight lines on bars 37-38 prior to crossing over.

Editor's note to the 2025 edition

The Scottish Country Dance Database lists the Mill Wheel as a figure also appearing in other dances, however the actual formation is entirely different to that described above.

Following the Mill Wheel figure in bars 25-32, it is challenging to return to the longwise formation within bars 31-32. The original note likely acknowledges this, and suggests that the men's chain is used to return to straight lines, rather than attempting to achieve this beforehand.

Version History

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