

The Whetherly Book of Scottish Country Dances

Number 7

By John W. Mitchell

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Original Introduction

Here it is at last the eagerly awaited and much dreaded seventh volume in the Whetherly Saga. Is there no way of stopping it you may well cry. Another curious mixture of old and new ideas once again bursts onto the unsuspecting world of Scottish Dancing. Some of these dances are simple enough for complete beginners and others will tax the minds and feet of the most experienced dancers: I will let you, the reader decide into which category each dance falls. Suffice it to say that in my experience beginners find the more complicated figures easier because they do not have the conventional figures ingrained into their minds. Well good luck with the problems.

John W. Mitchell (1980)

Introduction to the new edition

Certainly it is easier to dance more unconventional figures if the usual way has not yet become a habit. For the same reason that it is difficult to write with the “wrong” hand. John was always adamant that his atrocious handwriting was simply because he was forced to learn to write with the right hand at school, and was naturally left handed. I’m not sure he ever tested that theory though. Thankfully, the Whetherly books were originally written with a typewriter.

More likely than not, some of these dances will fulfil both categories John mentions above: simple enough for beginners, yet will tax the minds and feet of the most experienced dancers. As you may by now have realized, there are also some dances in the Whetherly collection that are particularly complicated – mostly, containing impossible progressions and genuine errors. Where these have been identified and changed, an editor’s note has been added. However, although book 7 seems to be relatively compliant, we may not have found all of the issues and miscreant dance instructions. You have been warned.

Alison M. W. Mitchell (2021)

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.



Mrs Mary McManus

A thirty-two bar Strathspey for two trios in a circle round the room.

- 1-4 All join hands and set with Highland Schottische step on the right foot, then with two travelling steps commencing with the left foot change places with the person opposite giving left hand in passing.
- 5-8 Continuing facing in the same direction, all join hands and set with the Highland Schottische step on the left foot, and with two travelling steps commencing with the right foot change places with the person opposite giving right hands in passing. (Everybody has now progressed two places round the circle, continuing facing in the same direction).
- 9-16 All dance six hands across in a wheel with the right hand and back with the left hand.
- 17-22 Reels of three, each man passes his right hand partner by the right shoulder to commence: the right hand partner should cast to her right out of the left hand wheel in order to enter the reel.
- 23-24 The facing men change places giving left hand in passing, to change partners.
- 25-32 Reels of three, the men pass their new right hand partner by the left shoulder to enter the reel: this represents a natural continuation of crossing by the left as their new right hand partner is on their left, as they change places. The reels finish with the men facing in, between their new partners and the ladies facing in their original direction.

Repeat with new partners.

Recommended tune: Mrs Mary McManus

McGinty's Meal and Ale

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

- 1-2 First lady and second man set whilst first man and second lady change places passing by the right.
- 3-4 First and second couples: change places with own partner passing by the left.
- 5-6 First lady and second man set, whilst first man and second lady change places passing by the right.
- 7-8 First couple set advancing to pass by the left shoulder to finish back to back facing their first corners.
- 9-16 First couple set to and turn their corners with both hands, and finish between their corners.
- 17-24 Second and first couples dance a ladies' chain.
- 25-26 All three couples dance six hands round to the left half way in a circle.
- 27-28 Each man turns the lady on his left with both hands.
- 29-30 Six hands round to the left in a circle half way.
- 31-32 First couple cross back to own side giving right hand in passing.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: McGinty's Meal and Ale

McLeod of Mull

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

- 1-8 Four hands round to the left in a circle, and back to the right.
- 9-16 Right hands across in a wheel and back with the left hand.
- 17-24 The two couples dance rights and lefts. Men face out, omitting the polite turn at the end of bar 24.
- 25-26 The two ladies change places giving right hands in passing. Meanwhile the two men cross passing their partners by the left and cast anticlockwise to finish in each other's place, facing own partner.
- 27-28 Each couple changes place with own partner by turning half way with the left hand.
- 29-32 Bars 25-28 are repeated with the next couple round the circle to progress one more place.

Repeat from new places.

Recommended tune: McLeod of Mull

Neil Low's Second Wife

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

- 1-2 First, second and third couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way.
- 3-4 Six hands round to the left half way in a circle.
- 5- 6 Left hands across in a wheel half way.
- 7- 8 Six hands round to the right in a circle half way.
- 9-12 First, second and third couples dance four bars of petronella, to finish facing up and down the set.
- 13-24 First, second and third couples dance a reel of six, passing own partner the the right shoulder to commence.
- 25-28 First, second and third couples dance four bars of petronella.
- 29-30 All three couples cross back to own side, giving right hand in passing. First couple finishes facing out.
- 31-32 First couple cast off into second place, second couple step up.

Repeat from second place. At the end of the repeat first couple cast to the foot and second and third couples step up together.

Recommended tune: Neil Low's Second Wife

Norma's Tune

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

- 1-2 First man and second lady cross with the left hand to change places.
- 3-6 First couple dance a half figure eight round second couple, beginning by crossing between second couple.
- 7-8 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel one quarter of the way round, to finish with second couple at the top and first couple in second place on the opposite side.
- 9-12 Second couple cast off and first couple leads up one place; then first couple cast off and second couple lead up one place.
- 13-16 First couple dances a half figure of eight round second couple, crossing up between them to commence.
- 17-24 First and second couples dance rights and lefts.
- 25-32 Four hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Norma's Tune

Editor's note to the 2021 edition

The cross with left hand in bars 1-2 is a suggested alternative to the original instructions. These are included here for completeness, yet it is a long way for the first man in two bars.

- 1-2 First man casts off and crosses to second lady's place whilst second lady crosses to first man's place.

Noup of Ness

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

- 1-4 First lady and second man set and change places giving right hand in passing.
- 5-8 First and second couples face up and down, set to partner and turn half way with the right hand to finish with both couples facing the men's side in an allemande hold.
- 9-16 First and second couples dance an allemande to change sides: finish with first couple on the ladies' side, second couple on the men's side with the ladies in top place.
- 17-20 First lady and second man set and change places giving right hand in passing.
- 21-24 First and second couples set to partner and cross to own side, giving right hand in passing.
- 25-32 First and second couples dance four hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Noup of Ness

Old Ireland

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

- 1-8 First couple set, turn one and a half times with the right hand and cast off into second place on the opposite side.
- 9-16 First couple set, turn one and a half times with the left hand and cast off into third place on own side.
- 17-24 First couple set, lead up to the top; cast off into second place and cross over giving left hand in passing to finish facing first corners.
- 25-32 First couple turn first corners with the right hand, partner with the left hand, second corners with the right hand and cross over giving left hand to partner.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Old Ireland

Orange and Blue

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

- 1-8 First couple set, turn one and a half times with the right hand and cast off into second place.
- 9-16 First couple cross to own side passing by the right shoulder, cast off behind third couple; lead up to the top crossing to opposite side, end cast off into second place on the opposite side.
- 17-24 First couple set, turn with the left hand one and a half times to own side and cast off into third place.
- 25-32 Second, third and first couples dance reels of three on own side of the set, third couple dance out and up to commence.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: Orange and Blue

The Piper's Cave

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

- 1-8 First couple dance down the middle for four steps, divide and cast up into second place on own side. Meanwhile second couple cast off for four bars, meet to dance up the middle to first place on own side.
Note: The second couple meet below the first couple as the first couple splits on bar 5, both couples dance below the standing fourth couple.
- 9-12 First man dances a half a reel of three with third couple, crossing down to start.
- 13-16 First man picks up his partner in a promenade hold to dance second half of the reel with third couple.
- 17-20 First lady continues to dance a third half reel of three with third couple, whilst first man dances a half reel of three with second couple. Third couple finishes on opposite sides.
- 21-24 First man collects his partner on his left in a promenade hold and they complete the reel of three with second couple; at the end second couple dance in to face down in a promenade hold, first couple remain facing down and third couple steps in to face up in a promenade hold, each man with his partner on his left.
- 25-32 Promenade reel of three up and down the set, first and third couples pass by the right to commence. Finish on own sides with first couple in second place.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: The Piper's Cave

Editor's note to the 2021 edition

The original instructions stated "lead" rather than "dance" in bars 1-8; given the flow of the figure, we suggest that nearer hands joined in an "dance" down and up would be more appropriate.

Bars 1-8 contained a note in the original edition, which we have modified here. The original note is reproduced below:

Note: the change of direction occurs opposite first and second positions of the next set: i.e. below fourth place, or the standing first couple on the repeat.

Rattlin' Bog

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

- 1-4 Six hands round to the left, three quarters round to finish in two lines, ladies facing down and men facing up the set.
- 5-8 All set pas de basque coupé.
- 9-12 First couple "cast to corners": first man casts behind the men and dances in to face third lady (in first lady's place) whilst first lady casts behind second lady and dances in to face second man, second couple step to the men's side of the set.
- 15-20 First couple turn corners with the right hand, partner with the left hand, second corners (in first corner position on the opposite side) with the right hand and partner with the left hand to finish facing up and down between second and third couples (lady at the top).
- 21-24 Six hands round to the right in a circle, three quarters to own side.
- 25-28 First and second couples dance four bars of a promenade, opening out to finish with first couple at the top and second couple in second place on the opposite sides.
- 29-32 First and second couples dance half rights and lefts.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Rattlin' Bog

The Reconciliation

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

- 1-8 First man followed by second, third and fourth men, crosses at the top, casts off behind the four ladies, crosses at the foot and casts up to original place.
- 9-16 First lady followed by second, third and fourth ladies crosses at the top, casts off behind the four men, crosses at the foot and casts up to place.
- 17-20 All advance towards partner, pulling right shoulder back, dance out to place and again pull right shoulder back to face partner.
- 21-24 All turn partner with both hands, using pas de basque steps to finish all facing the top in a promenade hold.
- 25-32 Promenade for four couples.
- 33-36 First couple, followed by second, third and fourth couples cast off into fourth place.
- 37-40 First couples join both hands to make an arch, second couple followed by third and fourth couples dance up the middle to top place.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: The Reconciliation

St Andrew's Parade

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

- 1-4 The men dance right hands across in a wheel to finish facing own partner.
- 5-8 Half a double reel of four:
The ladies pass their partners by the right shoulder and give left hands across half way, finishing in opposite place. Meanwhile, the men dance around their partner's position to finish facing in, in the same position in which they started the reel movement (on bar 4).
- 9-12 The men dance left hands across in a wheel to finish in original places beside the opposite lady.
- 13-16 The ladies dance right hands across in a wheel half way and turn their partner by the left hand.
- 17-20 The ladies dance right hands across in a wheel to finish facing their partner.
- 21-24 Half a double reel of four:
The men pass the ladies by the right and give left hands across in a wheel half way, finishing in opposite place. Meanwhile, the ladies dance around the men's position to finish facing in, in the same position as on bar 20.
- 25-28 The ladies dance left hands across in a wheel to original places.
- 29-32 The men dance right hands across in a wheel half way and turn their partners with the left hand to original places.
- 33-40 All turn corners with the right hand, into a promenade hold, and promenade three quarters round the set in a clockwise direction. The men finish in their original places with their new partners.
- 41-48 Reels of three round the square:
All pass new partner by the right shoulder to commence, then pass same person again passing by the right, and proceed to pass previous partner by the left, dancing round to pass again by the left to return to place (i.e., each dancer treats the reel as though starting from second place in a right shoulder reel of three).

Repeat with new partners.

Recommended tune: St Andrew's Parade

Editor's note to the 2021 edition

The two half double reels of four are strictly speaking slightly less than half a double reel.

The Scottish Horse

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

- 1-8 First and second couples dance round an anticlockwise square with petronella turns. To start first lady and second man cross to partners' places with a petronella turn, whilst first man travels to second man's place and second lady to first lady's place with similar turns.
- 9-12 First couple cast off into second place, second couple step up; first couple cross giving right hand.
- 13-14 First lady casts up to finish between second couple facing down and first man casts off to finish between third couple facing up.
- 15-16 First couple makes an arch with their right hands and turn simple beneath it to face their first corners.
Note: turn simple, each dancer turns on own with pas de basque step, thus first couple pass by the left shoulder under the arch made with their right hands.
- 17-24 First man turns first corner with the right hand, third man with the left hand, second man with the right hand and second lady with the left hand; at the same time first lady turns first corner with the right hand, second lady with the left hand, third lady with the right hand and third man with the left hand. First couple finishes facing up and down the set.
- 25-30 First couple lead out between second and third ladies, the man casts up and the lady casts down, they lead out between second and third men, the man casts up and the lady casts down.
- 31-32 First couple turns three quarters with the right hand to own side of the set.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: The Scottish Horse

The Seabright

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

- 1-2 First and second couples set.
- 3-8 First and second couples dance three quarters of a double figure of eight, to commence first couple cast off whilst second couple cross up.
- 9-16 Reels of three across the set, first lady with second couple passing second lady by the left to commence, first man with third couple passing third man by the left to commence. Finish facing second corners.
- 17-24 Reels of three with corners, passing second corner by the right to commence.
- 25-28 First couple turns with the left hand one and a quarter times.
- 29-32 First man dances right hands across with second couple. Meanwhile, first lady dances right hands across with third couple.
- 33-36 First man dances left hands across with third couple and first lady the same with second couple.
- 37-40 First couple turns with the right hand one and a quarter times to own side of the set.
- 41-48 Six hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: The Seabright

Shaw's Battle

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

Strathspey

- 1-4 First couple dance three hands round to the left with second lady, at the end of bar 4 second lady slips under an arch made by first couple who turns inwards, forming a circle facing clockwise.
- 5-8 First couple with the second lady dance three hands round to the right, second lady finishes in first lady's place.
- 9-12 First couple dance three hands round to the left with second man, at the end of bar 4 second man slips under an arch made by first couple, who turns inwards, forming a circle.
- 13-16 First couple with the second man dance three hands round to the right, second man finishes in first place and first couple in second place.

Reel

- 1-4 First and second couples join both hands with partner and dance down the middle with slip steps. On bar four they release the top hand and the lady turns anticlockwise under an arch made by their raised lower hands.
- 5-8 First and second couples join both hands and slip up the middle. On bar eight they release their lower hands and the ladies turn clockwise under an arch made by their raised upper hands.
- 9-16 Second and first couples dance round an anticlockwise square with petronella turns. To start second lady and first man cross to their partners' places with a petronella turn, whilst first lady dances up to top place on the lady's side with a petronella turn; and second man dances down to second place on the men's side with a petronella turn. All continue to proceed with petronella turns back to place.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tunes: Strathspey: Willie Shaw; Reel: After the Battle

The Shepherd's Wife

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

- 1-4 First and second couples join nearer hands on the sides and advance and retire.
- 5-6 First and second couples cross over, the ladies passing under an arch made by the men, to finish facing out.
- 7-8 Keeping hands, the second couple cast up into first place, while the first couple cast off into second place, passing under an arch made by the joined nearer hands.
- 9-16 Repeat bars 1-8: i.e. advance and retire; cross over (ladies going under an arch), then cast with second couple dancing under the arches.
- 17-18 First and second couples cross over giving right hand in passing.
- 19-24 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel one and a half times round to own side.
- 25-32 First and second couples dance rights and lefts.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: The Shepherd's Wife

Sidlaw Hills

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

- 1-4 Second couple cast up to first place on own side and cross over to opposite side, whilst third couple cast off into fourth place and cross over to opposite side. At the same time first and fourth ladies turn one and a half times with the right hand, first and fourth men do the same, to finish with fourth couple in second place and first couple in third place.
- 5-8 Fourth couple cast up into first place and cross to opposite side, giving left hand in passing, whilst first couple cast into fourth place and cross to opposite side giving left hand. At the same time second and third ladies turn one and a half times with the left hand, second and third men do the same. Order now is 4, 3, 2, 1, all on opposite side.
- 9-16 Eight hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.
- 17-24 Repeat bars 1-8 back to original places.
- 25-32 First couple cast off, second couple step up on bars 25 & 26. First couple cross down to third place giving right hand, third couple step up on bar 27 & 28. First couple cast off, fourth couple step up on bars 29 & 30. First couple cross over to own side giving left hand.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: Sidlaw Hills

Editor's note to the 2021 edition

In the original instructions, the figures for bars 25-32 would normally take ten bars of music, suggested however for 8 bars with unusual phrasing. The original instructions are reproduced below.

- 25-32 First couple cast off, second couple step up on bars 25 & 26. First couple cross over giving right hand and cast off, third couple step up on bar 28 & 29. First couple cross over giving left hand and cast into fourth place, fourth couple step up on bars 31 & 32.

The Siege of Delhi

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

- 1-8 First couple dance a figure of eight on the opposite side of the set round second and third couples crossing down between second couple to commence. First couple finishes between second couple, all facing down with nearer hands joined, first couple on the opposite sides of the set.
- 9-12 First and second couples dance down the middle, second couple accelerate to turn in in front of first couple to join nearer hands facing up.
- 13-16 Second couple dance up the middle between first couple, who divide and then follow second couple up the middle. Finish with first couple in second place, still on the opposite sides and second couple in first place.
- 17-24 First and second couples dance a ladies' chain.
- 25-28 First man turns third lady with the right hand whilst first lady turns third man similarly.
- 29-32 First man and second lady turn with the left hand, first lady and second man do the same.
- 33-40 Reels of three on the sides, first man and third lady pass right shoulder to commence as do first lady and third man.
- 41-46 Six hands round in a circle to the left.
- 47-48 First couple cross back to own side giving right hand.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: The Siege of Delhi

Staten Island

A sixty-four bar Reel for four couples in a square set.

- 1-16 Interrupted rights and lefts: The four ladies dance rights and lefts, to commence, first and second ladies give right hands as do third and fourth, they then set; first and fourth ladies then give left hands as do second and third, they then set again before repeating these eight steps back to place. At the same time the four men set, then first and fourth men change places giving right hand as do second and third; they again set then first and second men change places giving left hand as do third and fourth; these eight bars being repeated back to place.
- 17-24 First and third couples dance a figure of eight round second and fourth places: to commence third lady and first man cross between second couple whilst their partners cross between fourth couple. At the same time second and fourth couples dance rights and lefts, commencing by giving right hand to own partner.
- 25-32 First and third couples dance rights and lefts, crossing with opposites right hand to commence. At the same time second lady and fourth man dance a figure of eight round first place whilst their partners dance a figure of eight round third place: casting behind first and third places to commence.
- 33-40 The ladies dance right hands across in a wheel, then turn their partners one and a quarter times with the left hand to finish on their partners' left.
- 41-48 The men dance right hands across in a wheel, then turn their partners one and quarter times with the left hand to finish on their partners' left. Each couple has thus progressed one place clockwise round the set.
- 49-56 First and third couples dance rights and lefts, crossing with opposites to commence. Meanwhile second and fourth couples dance rights and lefts giving right hand to partner to commence.
- 57-64 Eight hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.

Repeat from new places.

Recommended tune: Staten Island

Stoney Path Tower

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, third and fourth do the same.
- 5-6 All join hands on the sides and slip to the left for four steps.
- 7-8 All slip to the right for four steps.
- 9-12 First and second couples dance four hands round to the right in a circle, third and fourth do the same.
- 13-14 All join hands on the sides and slip to the right for four steps.
- 15-16 All slip to the left for four steps.
- 17-18 First couple crosses to second place on the opposite side to face out, second couple step up.
- 19-24 First, third and fourth couples dance reels of three on the sides, third couple dance in and up to commence.
- 25-26 First couple cast into third place, third couple step up.
- 27-28 First couple lead down to fourth place.
- 29-30 First couple cast up into third place, still on opposite sides.
- 31-32 First couple cross back to fourth place on own side, fourth couple step up.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: Stoney Path Tower

Strawberry Bank

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

- 1-2 First and third couples change places giving right hands in passing, whilst second and fourth couples set.
- 3-4 Second and fourth couples change places giving right hands in passing, whilst first and third couples set.
- 5-8 All turn corners one and a half times with the left hand to change places.
- 9-32 Repeat bars 1-8 three times to return to original places.
- 33-36 The ladies dance right hands across in a wheel three quarters round.
- 37-38 Ladies turn their corners with the left hand.
- 39-40 Ladies turn their partners with the right hand.
- 41-44 Men dance left hands across in a wheel three quarters round.
- 45-46 Men turn their corners with the right hand.
- 47-48 Men turn their partners with the left hand.
- 49-50 All change places with corners giving right hand.
- 51-52 All turn next person with the left hand once round.
- 53-54 All change places with corners giving right hand.
- 55-56 All turn partners with left hand once round.
- 57-64 Eight hands round to the left in a circle end back to the right.
- 65-66 All turn corners once round with the left hand.
- 67-70 All dance back to back with own partner.
- 71-72 All change places with partner giving right hand in passing, to face opposite corner.
- 73-80 Repeat bars 65-72 back to place.
- 81-88 Ladies slip clockwise half way round in a circle, at the same time the men slip anticlockwise half way round outside the ladies.
- 89-96 Half a grand chain back to place, giving the right hand to partner to commence, two steps to each hand.
- 97-100 First and third couples dance half rights and lefts. At the same time second and fourth couples change places, ladies dancing anticlockwise and men dancing clockwise outside them. All are now on the opposite sides with second and fourth ladies on their partners' left.
- 101-104 Second and fourth couples dance half rights and lefts whilst first and third dance round them back to their original places. All ladies are now on their partners' left.
- 105-112 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.
- 113-128 Repeat bars 97-112 back to original places.

Recommended tune: Strawberry Bank

Sweet Maid of Glendaruel

A thirty-two bar Reel for three couples in a longwise set.
For Anne Large who gave me the inspiration.

- 1-2 First couple cast off into second place, second couple step up.
- 3-6 First man dances a half figure of eight round second couple whilst first lady dances a half figure of eight round third couple.
- 7-8 First couple turn with the left hand to face their first corners.
- 9-16 First man dances a reel of three with third couple whilst first lady dances a reel of three with second couple; they pass their first corners by the left shoulder to commence, on bars 15-16 first couple pass by the left shoulder to face their second corners.
- 17-24 First couple dance a reel of four with their second corners.
- 25-30 First couple dance reels of three on the sides with their corners, passing second corner by the right shoulder to commence.
- 31-32 First couple cross back to own side giving right hand in passing.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Sweet Maid of Glendaruel

Syd Chalmers

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

- 1-4 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel.
- 5-8 First, second and third couples dance half reels of three on the sides, first and second couples pass by the right to commence.
- 9-12 First and second couples dance left hands across in a wheel.
- 13-16 First, second and third couples dance half reels of three on the sides, first and second couples pass by the left shoulder to commence.
- 17-24 First couple dance down the middle and back, on bar 23 they raise their right hands to form an arch and first lady dances under the arch to dance out to place. First couple finishes facing out.
- 25-26 First couple cast off into second place, second couple step up.
- 27-30 First couple dance a half figure of eight round third couple, crossing down to commence.
- 31-32 First couple cross back to own side giving right hand in passing.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Syd Chalmers

Tam Bain's Lum

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

- 1-8 Eight hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.
- 9-16 First and third couples advance and retire twice. Meanwhile second and fourth couples set, advance and retire, and set.
- 17-18 First man and third lady dance round each other passing by the right, first lady and third man do the same.
- 19-20 First and third couples dance round own partner passing by the left.
- 21-24 First man and third lady dance a half figure of eight round second couple to finish in each other's place; at the same time first lady and third man dance a half figure of eight round fourth couple to finish in each other's place.
- 25-32 Repeat bars 17-24 back to own places.
- 33-40 Eight hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.
- 41-44 First couple lead between third couple, the man casts to his left around third lady and the lady to her right around third man to finish facing third couple.
- 45-48 First and third couples dance right hands across in a wheel.
- 49-50 First and third couples turn partner with the right hand.
- 51-54 First man turns third lady with the left hand whilst first lady turns third man with the left hand.
- 55-56 First and third couples turn with the right hand.
- 57-64 First and third couples dance a reel of four, first and third men passing left shoulder to commence. Finish in original places.
- 65-96 Repeat bars 33-64 with second couple leading.
- 97-128 Repeat bars 33-64 with third couple leading.
- 129-160 Repeat bars 33-64 with fourth couple leading.
- 161-192 Repeat bars 1-32 with second and fourth couples leading: i.e. on bars 169-176 second and fourth couples advance and retire twice whilst first and third couples set, advance and retire, and set. Then second and fourth couples dance the figure previously danced by first and thirds.

Recommended tune: Tam Bain's Lum

T. B. Laing Esq.

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

- 1-4 First man and second lady set and turn with the right hand.
- 5-8 First man crosses over and casts off behind his partner to finish in the centre of the set facing up, whilst second lady crosses over and casts up behind her partner to finish in the centre of the set facing down. Meanwhile first lady and second man set and turn with the left hand to finish back to back, first lady facing second lady and second man facing first man; all in a straight line up and down the set.
- 9-16 First and second couples dance a reel of four. Finish on the sidelines, first couple on the men's side and second couple on the ladies' side, the ladies in first place.
- 17-20 First lady and second man set and turn with the right hand.
- 21-24 First lady crosses to own side and casts into second place, whilst second man crosses to own side and casts into first place. Second lady and first man set and turn with the left hand.
- 25-32 Second and first couples dance rights and lefts.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: T. B. Laing Esq.

The Thack Cottage

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

- 1-4 All set with Highland Schottische step.
- 5-8 First couple lead down between second couple and cast off into fourth place, whilst fourth couple lead up between third couple and cast up into first place. At the same time second couple casts up into first place and crosses into second place on the opposite side, and third couple casts off into fourth place and crosses up into third place on the opposite side.
- 9-16 First lady, third man, second lady and fourth man dance a diagonal reel of four: to start first lady and third man pass by the right as do second lady and fourth man.
- 17-24 First man, third lady, second man and fourth lady dance a reel of four passing left shoulder at the ends to commence: i.e. first man and third lady pass by the left as do second man and fourth lady.
- 25-28 First couple dance up between third couple and cast up to original places. Meanwhile fourth couple dance down between second couple and cast off into original places. At the same time second couple cast up to the top and cross back to original places and third couple cast off and cross up to original places.
- 29-32 First couple lead down the middle to fourth place, turning out to cast up into line, whilst second, third and fourth couples set and dance up one place on the sides.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: The Thack Cottage

There Cam' a Young Man

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

- 1-8 First and second couples dance rights and lefts, first man and second lady finish facing out by not completing the polite turn on bar 8.
- 9-16 First, second and third couples dance a reel of three on the sides of the set, second and third couples pass by the right shoulder to commence the reel.
- 17-20 First couple cross over giving right hand and cast off into second place, second couple dance up to first place, with nearer hand, on bars 19-20.
- 21-22 Second couple cast off whilst first couple cross to first place on own side.
- 23-24 First and second ladies turn half way with the right hand to change places, whilst first and second men turn half way with the left hand to change places.
- 25-32 First, second and third couples dance six hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: There Cam' A Young Man

This Is No My Ain Lassie

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

- 1-4 First couple dance a half figure of eight round second couple, crossing down to commence.
- 5-8 First and second couples dance half rights and lefts.
- 9-16 First and second couples dance a ladies' chain.
- 17-20 First man and second lady set and turn with the right hand, first lady and second man do the same.
- 21-24 First and second couples set and cross over giving left hand in passing, first couple finish facing their first corners.
- 25-32 First couple turn first corners with the right hand, partner with the left hand; second corners with the right hand and cross back to own side giving left hand.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: This Is No My Ain Lassie

Three Times Three

A forty eight bar Hornpipe for two couples in a longwise set.

- 1-6 First couple set, lead down between second and third couples, second couple step up on bars 3 & 4, first couple cross below third couple and cast up into second place on the opposite side.
- 7-8 First couple collect second couple in promenade hold and turn them to face out, ladies on the other man's right.
- 9-16 First and second couples, still in promenade hold cast off for four bars, each couple turns inwards to dance up the outside with the ladies on the men's left, to the top of the set. They dance in in promenade hold, to finish in a straight line facing down with the first couple in the middle of the line, all with nearer hands joined.
- 17-24 All dance down the middle for four steps, turning to the right to dance up: first couple accelerate to dance in front of second couple and cast off into second place on the opposite side as second couple dance out to first place.
- 25-32 First and second couples dance a ladies' chain, finish facing up and down on the side lines with both hands joined.
- 33-40 First and second couples change sides of the set with a poussette: to start the ladies retire along the side lines then make a quarter turn to bring the men into the middle, into the middle on third step and out to the opposite side on fourth step, another quarter turn and travel along the sides, then turn half way to get first couple into second place and on the last bar turn to face partner across the set.
- 41-44 First couple cross up between second couple and cast off into second place on the opposite sides. Meanwhile second couple set and turn with the right hand once round, to finish facing out.
- 45-48 First and second couples dance half a double figure of eight to return to own sides of the set, to start second couple cast off whilst first couple cross up.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Three times three

The Thurso Wedding

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

- 1-4 First and second couples face up and down, the ladies join both hands; all slip across to the opposite side of the set with four slip steps, ladies passing in front of their partners and set.
- 5-8 Repeat slipping back to own side of the set and set.
- 9-16 Right hands across in a wheel and back with the left hand.
- 17-22 First couple lead down the middle for three steps and back for three steps.
- 23-24 First couple cast off into second place, second couple step up.
- 25-32 Rights and lefts.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: The Thurso Wedding

The Ton

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

- 1-8 First man, followed by second, third and fourth men crosses below first lady and casts off behind second lady, dances down in front of third lady, casts off behind fourth lady, crosses to own side and dances up to place.
- 9-16 First lady, followed by second, third and fourth ladies, crosses below first man, casts off behind second man, dances in front of third man and casts off behind fourth man, then crosses to own side and dances up to place.
- 17-20 First couple cross over giving right hand and cast off.
- 21-24 First man dances right hands across with second couple, whilst first lady dances right hands across with third couple.
- 25-28 First couple cross over giving left hands and cast off.
- 29-32 First man dances left hands across with third couple and first lady dances left hands across with fourth couple.
- 33-36 First couple cross giving right hands and cast off.
- 37-40 First couple cross up between fourth couple and cast off into fourth place.
- 41-48 Eight hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: The Ton

The Top of Ben Lomond

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

- 1-16 Poussette Reel of Threes; using pas de basque throughout:
- 1 all three couples advance to join both hands with partner;
 - 2 first couple to first man's place, second couple to first lady's place, third couple half a turn to the right;
 - 3 first and second couples turn half way to right, third couple to third man's place;
 - 4 first couple diagonally into the middle at second place, second couple into middle at first place, third couple turn half way to the right;
 - 5 second couple turn half way to the right, first couple to third lady's place and third couple diagonally into the middle at second place;
 - 6 second couple to first man's place, third couple to first lady's place and first couple turn half way to the right;
 - 7 second and third couples turn half way to the right, first couple into the middle at third place;
 - 8 first couple turn half way to the right, second couple into the middle at second place, third couple into the middle at first place; all three couples are now in a line in the middle in the order 3, 2, 1 on the opposite sides of the set.
 - 9 first couple out to third man's place, second couple out to third lady's place and third couple turn half way to the right;
 - 10 first and second couples turn half way to the right, third couple out to first man's place;
 - 11 first couple into the middle at second place, second couple into the middle at third place and third couple turn half way to the right;
 - 12 first couple out to first lady's place, third couple into the middle at second place and second couple turn half way to the right;
 - 13 first couple turn half way to the right, third couple out to third lady's place and second couple out to third man's place;
 - 14 first couple into the middle at first place, second and third couples turn half way to the right;
 - 15 first couple turn half way to the right, second couple into the middle at second place and third couple into the middle at third place;
 - 16 all fall back to original places.
- Note: the track for all three couples is the same; the lines running from first lady's place to first man's place, diagonally to third lady's place, across to third man's place and diagonally to first lady's place. The turns all take place at first and third positions, at the sides and in the centre and should be adjusted to allow the traveling to occur in straight lines.
- 17-24 First and second couples dance a Quern progression* to change places: Turn with the right hand for three bars, right hands across in a wheel half way and cross to own side giving right hand.
- 25-32 Six hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: The Top of Ben Lomond

* A list of all new figures introduced in Whetherly books & sheets, together with a reference to the book where the figure first appeared and is best described, can be found in a separate file called "Whetherly Collection of New Figures" also available for download.

Toward Castle

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

- 1-4 First man and third lady dance a half figure of eight round second couple, crossing between second couple to commence, whilst their partners do the same round fourth couple. First and third couples finish back to back with their partners in the centre of the set.
- 5-8 First man turns second man one and a half times with the right hand to change places, third and fourth men do the same. Meanwhile second and third ladies turn one and a half times with the left hand, first and fourth ladies do the same.
- 9-16 Second and fourth couples set for eight bars in the centre of the set.
- 17-24 Second and fourth couples dance a ladies' chain.
- 25-32 Second and fourth couples dance right hands across in a wheel and back with the left hands to their original places, passing third and first couples by the right. On bars 31 & 32, third and first couples advance with pas de basque step.
- 33-40 First and third couples dance right hands across in a wheel and back with the left hands to finish in lines across the set.
- 41-48 Reels of four across the set, first couple with second man and fourth lady and third couple with second lady and fourth man. In each reel the ladies pass right shoulder to commence as do the men.
- 49-56 First and third couples dance a ladies' chain.
- 57-64 First and third couples dance four hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.
- 65-68 First and third couples set.
- 69-72 First man and third lady dance a half figure eight round second couple back to original places, crossing between second couple to commence: first lady and third man dance a similar half figure eight round fourth couple back to place.
- 73-76 All turn partner one and three quarter times with the right hand, to finish with ladies in the middle facing their partners.
- 77-88 Double reel of four, to commence the men passing their partners by the right to give left hands across in a wheel.
- 89-96 Each man takes his partner on his right in a promenade hold, they promenade clockwise round the set to place.

Repeat with second and fourth couples starting.

Recommended tune: Toward Castle

Tweedale Reel

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

- 1-8 All promenade anticlockwise round the set.
- 9-12 All turn corner with the right hand and then change places with partner giving left hand.
- 13-16 Turn next corner with the right hand and give left hand to partner to return to original place.
- 17-24 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.
- 25-28 All turn partner with the right hand and corner with the left hand.
- 29-32 All change places with partner giving right hand, then turn new corner with the left hand three quarters round to finish facing anticlockwise in a promenade hold.

Repeat with new partner.

Recommended tune: Tweedale Reel

Editor's note to the 2021 edition

At the end of the dance, the set has rotated through $\frac{1}{8}$ (or 45°), such that a circle formation would probably be more appropriate. However, it is unclear which new couple should become the new top couple. Our suggestion is that the first man remains in first couple's place, such that the ladies progress on one place after each iteration.

The Wattle O't

A thirty two bar Reel 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 couple cross over giving right hand and cast up to the top, second couple step down on bars 7 & 8.
- 9-12 First and second couples dance four hands round to the left, in a circle.
- 13-16 Retaining hands in a circle, first couple lead down under an arch made by second couple, first couple release nearer hands and cast up to the top turning second couple under the arch as they do so.
- 17-24 First couple dance down the middle. As a couple with hands joined, they turn to their left, to come up on own side to the top, then cast off into second place.
- 25-32 First couple, followed by third couple, lead up to the top, in a promenade hold, cast off behind second man, cross over and cast up behind second lady, then lead down between second couple. First couple cross back to own side and cast up into second place as third couple cross to third place on own side.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: The Wattle O't

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