The Whetherly Book of Scottish Country Dances

Number 8

By John W. Mitchell

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Original Introduction

The dances in Whetherly books numbers four through eight were all devised prior to 1980. It was not practical to publish them all as they were individually devised, and the books have accordingly been gradually released. It is an interesting thought that in Scottish dance devising many people in different parts of the world happen to come up with similar combinations of figures at much the same time. This must be by means of a logical process of thought whereby new ideas are continuously derived from what has gone before. One is always conscious of being inspired by dances devised by others, and obviously we tend to borrow each other's ideas. Before we are accused of any accusations of plagiarism, however, let it be clear that this is not necessarily so. I have encountered numerous examples of similar ideas being developed in different countries and published simultaneously. These dances represent my ideas, the sources of inspiration are wide and varied non-Scottish dances, old manuscripts, patterns seen in ancient and modern art and even the music chosen have all contributed in some measure. I trust that they give you and your friends as much pleasure as they have given me and my classes.

John W. Mitchell (1980)

Introduction to the new edition

Not only in Scottish Country Dancing, also in science similar ideas are developed at more or less the same time. This has led to several historical arguments about who was the first, or who has the right to claim the original idea. As a famous example, Newton and Leibnitz independently developed a theory of calculus at more or less the same time, with each subsequently claiming that the other had stolen his idea. However, I would like to think that this is another example of the logical process John mentions, with new ideas continuously derived from what has gone before. After all, to quote Newton himself "if I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." – and who is there to say there is only room for one person to take in the view?

This might as well serve as a reminder to keep your head up whilst dancing, don't stare at your feet, and remember to smile. Especially, smiles all round when we resume dancing after this 2020 hiatus. I wish you much enjoyment with this eighth book.

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.

Victoria Reel

A one hundred and sixty bar Reel for four couples in a square set.

First figure

- 1-8 Eight hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.
- 9-12 First couple dance anticlockwise behind fourth couple, the lady dancing round in front of fourth lady whilst the man dances between fourth couple in front of fourth man: at the same time third couple dance similarly behind second couple, third lady dancing in front of second lady and third man between third couple in front of second man.
- 13-14 First and third couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way.
- 15-16 First and second couples dance left hands across in a wheel half way, third and fourth couples do the same.
- 17-24 Second man passes first man by the left shoulder to dance round the set in an anticlockwise direction, second lady passing first lady by the left shoulder to follow her partner, second man leads behind third couple and dances round in front of third man, second lady dancing between third couple to finish in front of third lady; at the same time fourth couple dance similarly, passing third couple by the left shoulder and dancing anticlockwise round the set behind first couple to dance into the centre fourth passing between first couple to finish in front of the first man.
- 25-26 Second and fourth couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way.
- 27-28 First and second couples dance left hands across in a wheel half way, third and fourth couples do the same.
- 29-32 First lady passes second lady by the left shoulder and casts anticlockwise to her original place, first man passes second man by the left shoulder to follow his partner back to place: third couple similarly dance back to place, passing fourth couple by the left shoulder and casting in an anticlockwise direction.

All four couples are now back in their original places.

Second figure

- 1-8 The four men dance across in front of their partners and cast behind the next lady in an anticlockwise direction to the opposite side of the set; the men then dance left hands across in a wheel half way back to their original places and set: at the same time the ladies set, dance left hands across in a wheel half way to pass their partners by the right shoulder as the men dance in to commence their wheel; cast in an anticlockwise direction one place round the set and cross in front of their partners to their original places.
- 9-12 All turn their corners once round with the right hand.
- 13-16 All turn partners with the left hand one and a quarter times round, at the end the ladies join right hands to form a wheel, the men turning to face clockwise and joining nearer hands with partner.
- 17-24 Grand star, all dance right hands across in a wheel once round.
- 25-28 All set twice to partners.
- 29-32 All turn partner once round with both hands using pas de basque step.

Third figure

- 1-6 Half a double reel of four, the men pass their partners by the right shoulder to give left hands across to commence the reels.
- 7-8 All set to partner.
- 9-24 Star chain, once round, two steps to each hand. To start all change places with partner, the men turning to face the next lady on their right with whom they then change places with the left hand, the ladies dancing in and turning to face the next man to their left; these four bars being repeated three times round the set.
- 25-26 All set to partner.
- 27-32 Half a double reel of four, the men again passing their partners by the right to give left hands across.

All are now back in their original places.

Fourth figure

- 1-4 All turn partners with two hands once round, using pas de basque step.
- 5-8 All set to partner, on the last step all turn to face anticlockwise, joining nearer hand with partner the ladies giving left hands across ready for a wheel.
- 9-16 Grand star, all dance left hands across in a wheel once round.
- 17-20 All turn partners one and a quarter times round with the right hand to original places.
- All turn corners once round with the left hand.
- 25-32 The ladies dance in front of their partners, cast behind the next man's place to the opposite side of the set; then give right hands across in a wheel half way back to original place and set. Meanwhile the men set, dance right hands across half way to pass their own partner by the left shoulder as the ladies enter their wheel; then cast one place in a clockwise direction and dance in front of their partners back to their original places.

Note: the entry to this figure is made easier for the ladies, if the turn on bars 21-24 is accelerated to a three bar turn allowing the lady the fourth bar to complete a polite turn into place.

All are now back in their original places.

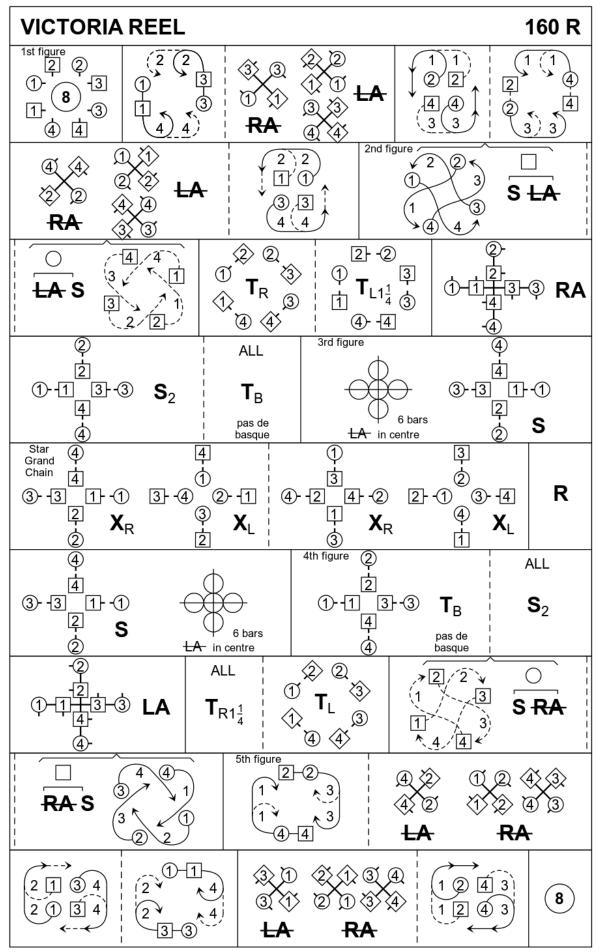
Fifth figure

- 1-4 Second man casts in a clockwise direction behind third couple and dances round in front of third man, second lady follows him and dances between third couple to finish in front of third lady: meanwhile fourth couple similarly cast behind first couple, fourth man dancing round to finish in front of first man and fourth lady dancing between first couple to finish in front of first lady.
- 5-6 Second and fourth couples dance left hands across in a wheel half way.
- 7-8 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way, third and fourth couples do the same.
- 9-16 First lady passes second lady by the right shoulder and casts in a clockwise direction round the set behind fourth couple to finish in front of fourth lady, first man passes second man by the right shoulder to follow his partner round the set and dance in between fourth couple and finish in front of fourth man: meanwhile third couple dance similarly, third lady passing fourth lady by the right shoulder and casting clockwise behind second couple to finish in front of second lady whilst her partner passes fourth man by the right shoulder and dances between second couple to finish in front of second man.
- 17-18 First and third couples dance left hands across in a wheel half way.
- 19-20 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way, third and fourth couples do the same.
- 21-24 Second man passes first man by the right shoulder and casts in a clockwise direction back to his original place, second lady passes first lady by the right shoulder to follow her partner to place; at the same time fourth couple dance similarly, fourth man passing third man by the right shoulder and casting to place whilst fourth lady passes third lady by the right shoulder to follow him to place.
- 25-32 All dance eight hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.

It is suggested that if an encore is played the roles can be reversed, second and fourth couples leading for the first figure and first and third couples leading for the fifth figure.

Recommended tune: Victoria Reel

(diagram on next page)



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

4C/4C square set.

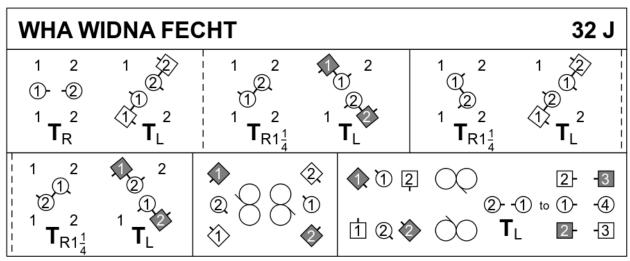
Wha Widna Fecht

A thirty-two bar Jig for two trios each comprising a man between two ladies, in a circle round the room.

- 1-2 The two men turn with their right hand once round.
- 3-4 The men turn the lady who was originally on their right once round with the left hand.
- 5-6 The men turn with their right hand.
- 7-8 The men turn the lady who was originally on their left once round with the left hand.
- 9-10 The men turn with the right hand.
- 11-12 The men turn the opposite man's right hand lady (i.e. the lady who was originally diagonally on their left) with the left hand.
- 13-14 The men turn with the right hand.
- 15-16 The men turn the opposite man's left hand lady (i.e. the lady who was originally diagonally on their right) with the left hand to finish facing the opposite man's right hand lady.
- 17-24 The men dance a reel of three with the opposite man's ladies, passing the right hand lady by the right shoulder to commence, on the last two bars the men dance across to face their original left hand partner.
- 25-30 The men dance a reel of three with their left hand partner and the opposite man's right hand partner, passing their left hand partner by the left shoulder to commence.
- 31-32 The men turn with the left hand to finish between each other's partners. The ladies turn to face in the opposite direction: the men finish back to back facing a new trio.

Repeat with new partners. The men continue to progress round the room dancing with all the ladies in turn.

Recommended tune: Wha Widna Fecht



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

2T/Any Round the Room.

Who Fears to Speak of the 98

A thirty-two bar Reel for four couples in a circle round the room. First and third couples facing clockwise and second and fourth couples facing anticlockwise, each man with his partner on his right; first and fourth couples are on the left of each line, third and second couples on the right of each line.

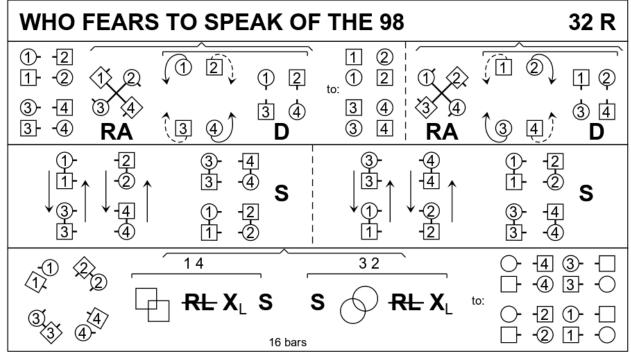
- 1-4 The four dancers in the middle (first lady, second man, fourth lady and third man) dance right hands across in a wheel to finish in their partners' places. Meanwhile first man and third lady cast behind their partners' places to dance back to back and finish in their partners' places; second lady and fourth man do the same.
- 5-8 First man, second lady, fourth man and third lady dance right hands across in a wheel to finish in their original places. At the same time, first lady and third man cast to dance back to back and finish in their original places, second man and fourth lady do the same.
- 9-10 All join hands with partner then with four slip steps first and third couples change places (first passing behind third) and second and fourth couples change places (fourth passing behind second).
- 11-12 All set.
- 13-14 All slip back to original places (third couple behind first and second couple behind fourth).
- 15-16 All set.
- 17-32 First and fourth couples (diagonally opposite) dance a ladies' chain; half rights and lefts; then change places with partner left hand and set. Meanwhile, second and third couples set, dance a men's chain; half rights and lefts and change places with partner giving left hand. First and third couples finish facing clockwise and second and fourth anticlockwise, all facing new opposite couples from the opposite end of the line.

Repeat from new places.

Recommended tune: Who Fears to Speak of the 98

Editor's note to the 2021 edition

The original instructions stated a ladies' chain for second and third couple in bars 17-32. This would be an impractically long way for the ladies on the diagonal, such that we suggest a men's chain would be more appropriate and achieve the same effect.



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

4C/4C Round the Room.

Willafjord

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

- 1-4 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way and set.
- 5-8 First and third couples dance left hands across in a wheel half way and set.
- 9-12 First and third couples dance half rights and lefts.
- 13-16 First and second couples dance half rights and lefts.
- 17-24 First couple cross over giving right hand in passing and cast off into second place, second couple step up on bars 19 & 20; then first couple turn with the left hand to face their first corners.
- 25-32 Corners pass and turn: first corners turn by the right hand and dance back to place in four bars whilst first couple dance round them and pass giving right hand to face their second corners; then second corners turn by the right hand and dance back to place in four bars whilst first couple dance round them and turn with the right hand to finish facing out between second and third ladies, first lady on her partner's right.
- 33-36 First couple lead out between second and third ladies, first man casts up and first lady casts off to meet facing up and down in the centre of the set.
- 37-40 First couple turn with both hands, using pas de basque step, one and a half times to finish facing out between second and third man, first lady on her partner's right.
- 41-44 First couple lead out between second and third men, the lady casts up and the man casts off to finish facing up and down in the centre of the set.
- 45-48 First couple turn with both hands, using pas de basque step, one and a quarter times to finish on own side of the set in second place.

WILLAFJORD 8x48 R 12 2x 1x 1x 3 3x 1 3x 1 2x 1x 1x X_R ΤL S ່1ັ RA S RĿ RL Corners 3 1x 2 Pass 2 3 & \mathbf{T}_{R} \mathbf{X}_{R} \mathbf{T}_{R} Turn \mathbf{T}_{R} 1 3 3 **(**2) 2 3 3 2 2 $\mathbf{T}_{\mathsf{B1}\frac{1}{2}}$ **T**_{B1¹₄} 2 3 3

Repeat from second place. Recommended tune: Willafjord

John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

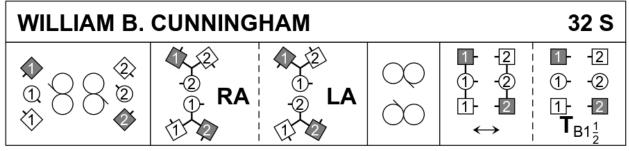
William B. Cunningham

A thirty-two bar Strathspey for two trios, each comprising a man between two ladies, in a circle round the room.

- 1-8 Reels of three, the men pass the lady on their right by the right shoulder to commence.
- 9-12 Each man dances right hands across in a wheel with his right hand partner and the lady facing her.
- 13-16 Each man dances left hands across in a wheel with his left hand partner and the lady facing her.
- 17-24 Reels of three, the men dance reels with their right hand partner and the lady opposite her, commencing by passing the lady opposite by the left shoulder.
- 25-28 All join hands and advance and retire.
- 29-32 All turn opposite person one and a half times with two hands, opening out on the last bar to finish back to back with original opposites facing a new trio.

Repeat with new partners.

Recommended tune: William B. Cunningham



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

2T/Any Round the Room.

Willie Brewed a Peck o'Maut

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

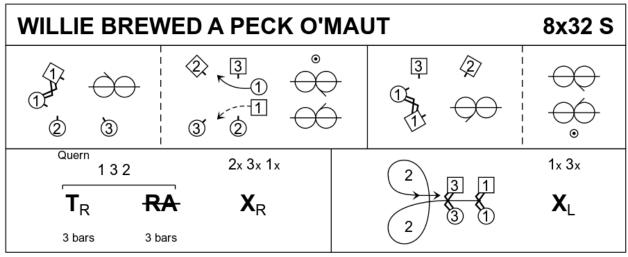
1-4 First couple take a promenade hold facing down, first lady on her partner's left, and dance a half a reel of three on the side with second and third men, passing second man by the right to commence.

Note that the reels in bars 1-16 are danced through the second and third positions only.

- 5-8 First lady completes the reel of three with second and third men whilst first man dances a half reel of three with second and third ladies passing third lady by the right to commence.
- 9-12 First couple meet at the top and take a promenade hold, first lady on her partner's right and complete the reel of three with second and third ladies, passing third lady by the left to commence.
- 13-16 First couple separate to dance half reels of three on own side of the set with second and third couples, finishing in the order 1, 3, 2.
- 17-24 All three couples dance a Quern progression*:
 - 17-19 turn partner with the right hand once round;
 - 20-22 six hands across in a wheel half way;
 - 23-24 cross back to own side giving right hand, third and first couples turn to finish facing the top in a promenade hold.
- 25-30 Third couple followed by first couple lead up to the top and cast off behind second man, cross over to the opposite side and cast up behind second lady, then lead down between second couple.
- 31-32 First and third couples cross back to own side, left hand, first couple finishing in a promenade hold facing down with the lady on the man's left.

Repeat from second place. On the last two bars third couple cross left hand and cast up into second place whilst first couple cross between them to the foot of the set. Recommended tune: Willie Brewed a Peck o'Maut

* 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.



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

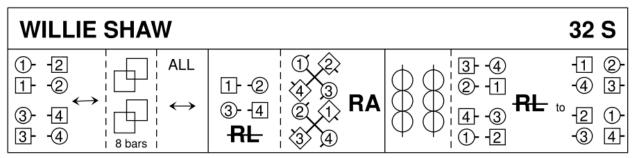
Willie Shaw

A thirty-two bar Strathspey for four couples in a circle round the room. First and third couples facing clockwise and second and fourth couples facing anticlockwise, each man with his partner on his right; first and fourth couples are on the left of each line and the third and second on the right of each line.

- 1-4 All advance and retire.
- 5-12 First and second couples dance a ladies' chain; third and fourth couples do the same.
- 13-16 All advance and retire.
- 17-20 First lady, second man, fourth lady and third man dance half rights and lefts to change partners.
- 21-24 First man, second lady, third man and fourth lady dance right hands across in a wheel; first lady, second man, third lady and fourth man do the same.
- 25-28 First man, fourth lady, second man and third lady dance a half a reel of four; second lady, third man, first lady and fourth man do the same.
- 29-32 First lady, second man, third lady and fourth man dance half rights and lefts; first man, second lady, third man and fourth lady do the same; to finish all the men dance polite turns so that each line finishes back to back with the line which it has just danced with, facing a new line, ready to repeat.

Finish with (from left to right): second man, third lady, first man and fourth lady facing clockwise; third man, second lady, fourth man and first lady facing anticlockwise.

Recommended tune: Willie Shaw



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

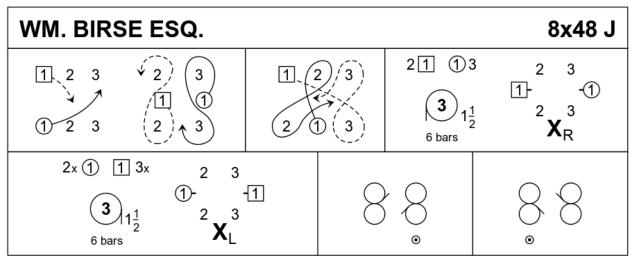
4C/Any Round the Room.

Wm. Birse Esq.

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

- 1-8 First man dances a figure of eight round third couple, passing third lady by the left to commence, and finishes in second place on own side. Meanwhile, first lady dances a figure of eight round second couple, passing second man by the right shoulder to commence, and finishes in first place on own side; second man steps up on bars 7 & 8. Note that the first man must pass in front of first lady to start.
- 9-16 First man dances a figure of eight round second couple, passing second lady by the right to commence. Meanwhile first lady passes third man by the right shoulder to dance a figure of eight round third couple: second lady steps up on bars fifteen and sixteen. First couple finish back to back in the centre of the set, lady facing up and man facing down.
- 17-22 First lady with second couple and first man with third couple, dance three hands round in a circle to the left one and a half times round; second and third couples finish on the opposite sides.
- 23-24 First couple cross giving right hand to finish back to back, first man facing up and first lady facing down.
- 25-30 First man with second couple and first lady with third couple dance three hands round to the right in a circle one and a half times round; second and third couples finish on own sides.
- 31-32 First couple change places giving left hand to face first corner.
- 33-40 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 and finish in second place on own side.
- 41-48 First man dances a reel of three with second couple passing second lady by the right shoulder to commence: at the same time first lady dances a reel of three with third couple passing third man by the right shoulder to commence; first couple finish in second place on own sides.

Repeat from second place. Recommended tune: Wm. Birse Esq.



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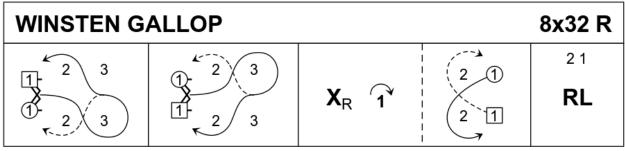
3C/4C longwise set.

Winsten Gallop

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

- 1-8 First couple take a promenade hold, lady on the man's left, and promenade down in front of second man and behind third man, dance up in front of third man then separate to cast up behind second couple into first place on the opposite side.
- 9-16 First couple again meet to take a promenade hold, dance down in front of second lady and behind third lady, then dance up in front of third lady and divide to cast up behind second couple into first place on own side.
- 17-20 First couple cross over giving right hand and cast off into second place on the opposite side.
- 21-24 First couple dance a half a figure of eight round second couple to finish in second place on own side.
- 25-32 First and second couples dance rights and lefts.

Repeat from second place. Recommended tune: Winsten Gallop



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

3C/4C longwise set.

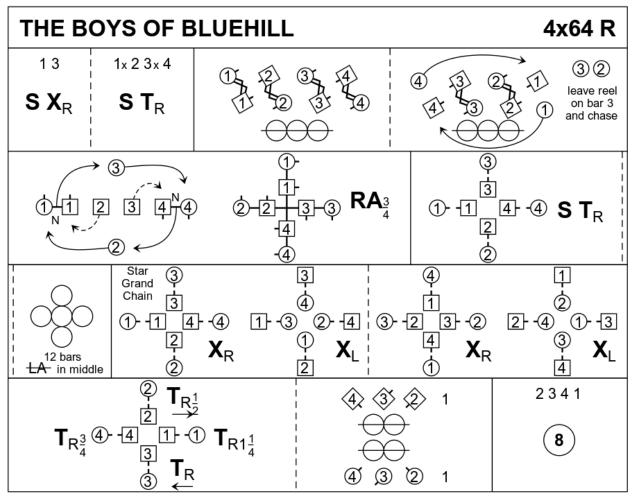
The Boys of Bluehill

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

- 1-4 First and third couples set and cross to the opposite side giving right hand in passing.
- 5-8 All four couples join hands on the sides and set, then turn partner once round with the right hand to finish in a promenade hold, each man with his partner on his right, first and third couples facing down and second and fourth couples facing up.
- 9-12 Commencing by passing the right shoulder dance a half reel of four in promenade hold.
- 13-16 The four ladies complete the reel of four: on bar 13 first man (at the foot) and fourth man (at the top) release their partners and commence to dance round the outside in a clockwise circle; on bar 14 second man releases his partner to follow first man into the circle whilst third man releases his partner to follow fourth man into the circle. At the end of bar 16 first and fourth couples meet own partner at their original end of the set.
- 17-24 First and fourth couples join nearer hands on bar 17 as the four men continue to dance round in a clockwise circle; second and third ladies dance out to the ends as if continuing the reel of four and join nearer hands with their partners as second and third man reach the top and foot of the set respectively at the end of bar 18. All four couples continue to dance round clockwise, the four ladies joining right hands across in a wheel on bar nineteen. The wheel finishes at the end of bar 24, all still in a grand cross formation, first couple at the top of the set, second couple on the men's side, third couple on the ladies' side and fourth couple at the foot; ladies back to back in the centre all facing own partner.
- 25-28 All set to partners and turn once round with the right hand.
- 29-40 Double reel of four, all commence by passing partner by the right shoulder, the men giving left hands across half way as they pass in the middle. All finish the reel where they commenced, ladies back to back in the middle facing their own partners.
- 41-48 Half a star grand chain: all change places with own partner giving right hand on bars 41-42, men advancing one place anticlockwise in the centre to face the next lady; all change places giving left hand on bars 43-44, the ladies advancing one place clockwise to face the next man; at the end of bar 48 all finish facing own partner.
- 49-52 All turn own partner with the right hand to finish back in a longwise set: fourth couple turn three quarters into top place facing down, third couple turn once into second place to finish man facing up and lady facing down, second couple turn one half round into third place to finish facing up and first couple turn one and a quarter to finish facing across.
- 53-56 Second, third and fourth couples dance half reels of three on own side of the set, to commence second and third ladies pass right shoulder as do the third and fourth men.
- 57-64 Eight hands round to the left in a circle for four bars and back to the right. Finish in the order 2, 3, 4, 1 all on own side of the set.

Repeat with a new top couple. Recommended tune: The Boys of Bluehill

(diagram on next page)



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

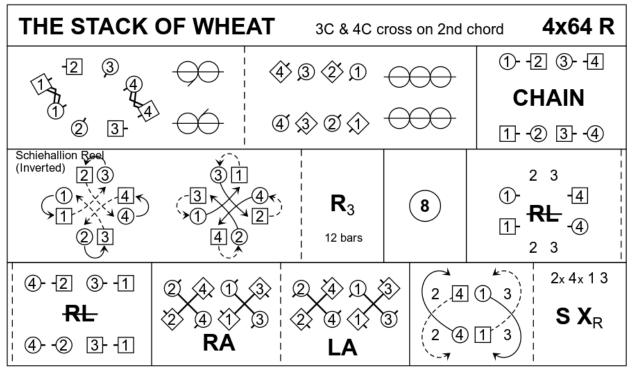
The Stack of Wheat

A sixty-four bar Reel for four couples in a longwise set. Third and fourth couples cross to opposite side on second chord.

- 1-4 First and fourth couples take promenade holds, the ladies on their partners' left, first couple facing down and fourth couple facing up. First couple dance a half a reel of three with second lady and third man on the ladies' side of the set. Meanwhile fourth couple dance a half reel of three with third lady and second man on the men's side of the set: pass by the left shoulder to enter the reels. On bar 4 first and fourth couples release promenade hold as they turn at the end of the reels.
- 5-8 Fourth lady, third man, second lady and first man dance a half a reel of four on the ladies' side of the set passing by the right shoulder at the ends to enter the reel. Meanwhile fourth man, third lady, second man and first lady dance a similar half reel of four on the men's side of the set. Finish the reels with first and third couples still on the opposite side of the set facing down and second and fourth couples on correct side facing up.
- 9-16 Grand chain, one step to each hand, commencing by giving right hands on the sidelines. Men proceed clockwise in the chain and ladies anticlockwise. On the final left hand pass first and fourth couples finish in the middle of the set, second and third couples on the sides, thus making a square formation, with the ladies all facing in and the men facing out.
- 17-32 Inverted Schiehallion reels: the men commence by casting anticlockwise to follow the lady on their immediate left. Meanwhile the ladies dance in passing by their right and out through the next left hand man's position.
- 33-40 Eight hands round to the left in a circle for four bars and back to the right. First and fourth couples finish facing up and down the set.
- 41-44 First and fourth couples dance half rights and lefts to change ends. First and second couples face up and fourth and third couples face down, all on the sidelines.
- 45-48 Fourth and second couples dance half rights and lefts, third and first couples do the same, all give right hands on the sides to commence, finish still facing up and down.
- 49-56 Second and fourth couples dance right hands across in a wheel and back with the left hand, first and third couples do the same. All finish out on the sidelines.
- 57-60 Fourth couple dance a half figure of eight round second couple, crossing up between second couple to commence, and finishing in second place on the opposite side. At the same time first couple dance a half figure of eight round third couple, crossing down between third couple to commence and finishing in third place on own side.
- 61-64 All join hands on the side and set, then cross to the opposite side giving right hand in passing. Finish in the order 2, 4, 1, 3 with first and third couples on the opposite sides.

Repeat with new leading couples. Recommended tune: The Stack of Wheat

(diagram on next page)



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

Cape Wrath Light

A ninety-six bar Medley for four couples in a longwise set; alternating 16 bars of Strathspey, Reel, Jig.

Strathspey

- 1-4 First couple dance a half figure of eight round second couple, crossing below second couple to commence. Meanwhile third couple dance a similar half figure eight round fourth couple, also crossing down to commence.
- 5-8 Second and third couples dance a half ladies' chain.
- 9-16 All four couples dance a grand chain, giving right hands on the sides to commence. One step to each hand, on the final step all finish facing own partner, first couple at the top, third couple on the ladies' side, fourth couple at the foot and second couple on the men's side: dancers are now in a square formation.

Reel

- 17-20 All dance four bars of petronella, ladies finish back to back in the centre facing their partners.
- 21-32 Double reels of four, to commence the men pass their partners by the right shoulder and give left hands across in a wheel half way; all finish back in square formation, the ladies on their partners' right.

Jig

- 33-36 First man followed by his partner dance clockwise behind third couple, first man dances round third man and in to face third man whilst first lady dances between third couple to face third lady. At the same time fourth man dances behind second couple to finish facing second man and fourth lady follows him to dance between second couple and face second lady.
- 37-40 First and third couples dance right hands across in a wheel, as do second and fourth couples.
- 41-44 First and fourth couples dance left hands across in a wheel.
- 45-48 First man passes third man by the right and casts round third man to the foot of the set, first lady passes third lady by the right to follow her partner. At the same time fourth man passes second man by the right and dances behind him to the top of the set, fourth lady passing second lady by the right to follow her partner. All finish back in square formation, ladies on their partners' right, all the ladies finish facing out.

Strathspey

49-64 Reel of eight as in Schiehallion: ladies cast to follow their partners. Meanwhile the men dance across passing by the left to the position occupied by the lady to the right of their partner, all continue to follow this track back to place.

Reel

- 65-72 Eight hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.
- 73-76 Third lady dances up to the top behind fourth couple and round to finish in front of fourth lady facing down the set, third man follows his partner and dances between fourth couple to finish in front of fourth man also facing down. At the same time second lady dances down behind first couple to finish in front of first lady facing up whilst second man follows his partner and dances between first couple to finish in front of first man facing up.
- 77-80 Second third and fourth couples dance half reels of three on the sides, to commence second and third couples pass by the right shoulder.

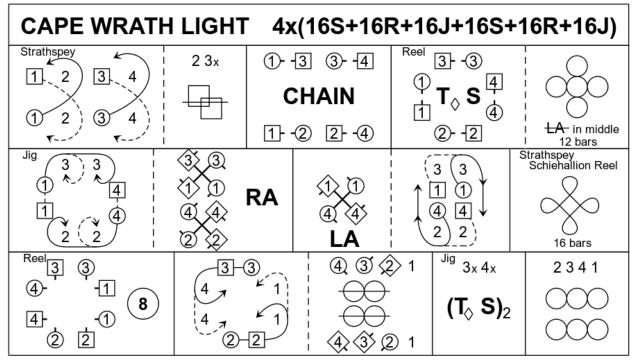
Jig

- 81-88 Third and fourth couples dance eight bars of petronella to return to own side of the set.
- 89-96 Reels of four on the sides of the set. Finish in the order 2, 3, 4, 1.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tunes: Strathspey: Rose Among the Heather; Reel: Lass O'Patie's Mill; Jig: The Bugle Horn; Strathspey: The Iron Man; Reel: The Storrers; Jig: Stool of Repentance

(diagram on next page)



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

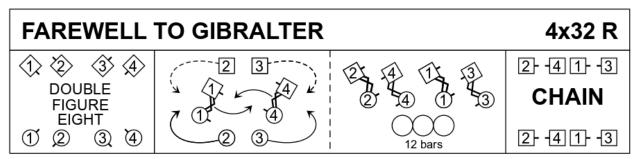
Farewell to Gibraltar

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

- 1-8 First and second couples dance a double figure of eight, to commence first couple cross down and second couple cast up. At the same time third and fourth couples dance a double figure of eight, to commence third couple cast off and fourth couple cross up. Second and third couples finish facing out.
- 9-12 First and fourth couples meet own partner and take a promenade hold (first lady on her partner's left, fourth lady on her partner's right) and then first couple dance down the set into third position facing down whilst fourth couple dance up the set passing first couple by the left into second position facing up. Meanwhile second couple cast up to the top and meet to take a promenade hold facing down with the lady on her partner's left, whilst third couple cast to the foot and meet to take a promenade hold facing up, third lady on her partner's right.
- 13-24 All four couples dance a promenade reel of four up and down the set. On the last bar all separate to finish on own side of the set, in the order 2, 4, 1, 3; second and first couples facing down and fourth and third couples facing up.
- 25-32 All four couples dance a grand chain, one step to each hand, commencing by giving right hands on the sides. Finish in the order 2, 4, 1, 3.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: The 79th's Farewell to Gibraltar



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

Skara Brae

An eighty bar Medley for four couples in a longwise set, phrased: 40 bar Strathspey, 40 bar Jig.

Strathspey

- 1-4 First couple dance a half figure of eight round second couple crossing down between second couple to commence. Meanwhile third couple dance a similar half figure of eight round fourth couple, crossing down between fourth couple to commence. Second and third couples finish facing up and down on the sides.
- 5-8 All four couples dance a half grand chain, to finish in square formation with fourth couple at the top facing down and first couple at the foot facing up.
- 9-12 Second and third couples dance a half ladies' chain to finish second couple on the ladies' side and third couple on the men's side.
- 13-16 First and fourth couples face partner to dance petronella turn and set to finish in a line facing up and down the centre of the set, the ladies back to back facing own partner.
- 17-20 First and fourth couples dance a half a reel of four.
- 21-24 All dance petronella turn and set; first couple finish at the top and fourth couple at the foot, ladies on their partner's left; second and third couples finish in a line across the set, the ladies back to back facing their partners.
- 25-28 Second and third couples dance a half reel of four.
- 29-32 All dance petronella turn and set; first and fourth couples finish in a straight line facing up and down the set, men back to back in the middle facing their partners; third couple finish on the ladies' side and second couple on the men's side, ladies on their partner's left.
- 33-36 First and fourth couples dance half a reel of four.
- 37-40 Second and third couples dance petronella turn and set. Finish in a grand cross with the four men all back to back in the centre facing their own partners.

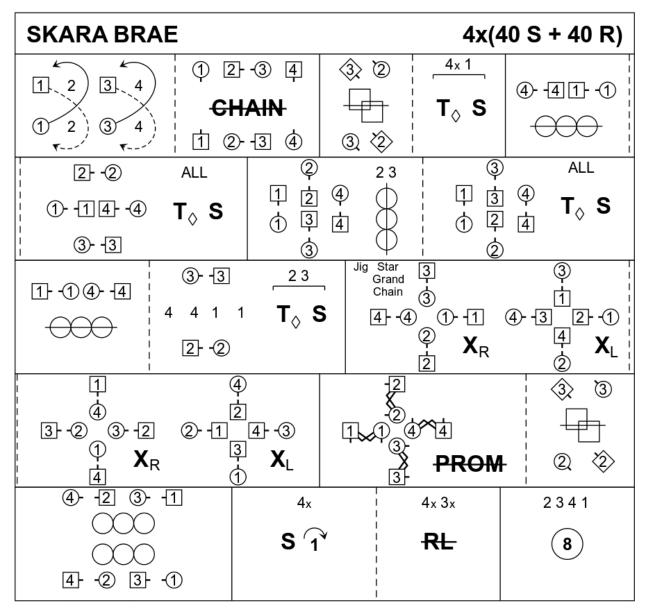
Jig

- 41-48 Half a star grand chain, all commence by passing own partner giving right hand for two steps, men face in, ladies moving round one position anticlockwise to face the next man; all change with next person left hand for two steps, ladies turning to face in whilst men progress one place clockwise; repeat to meet own partner on opposite side of the square.
- 49-52 All collect partners in a promenade hold and promenade anticlockwise half way round the set to finish back in a square formation, each man with his partner on his right: fourth couple at the top, third couple on the ladies' side, second couple on the men's side and first couple at the foot.
- 53-56 Second and third couples dance a half ladies' chain, finish in two lines up and down the set, second couple in second place on own side facing fourth couple at the top and third couple in third place on the opposite side facing first couple at the foot.
- 57-64 All four couples dance reels of four on the sides of the set, passing person facing by the right shoulder to commence.
- 65-68 Fourth couple set and cast off into second place, second couple step up on bars 67 & 68.
- 69-72 Fourth and third couples dance half rights and lefts to return to own side of the set. Order now is 2, 3, 4, 1, all on own sides.
- 73-80 Eight hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.

Repeat with a new top couple.

Recommended tunes: Strathspey: Duke of Gordon; Jig: Athlone Jig

(diagram on next page)



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

Paddy's Leather Breeches

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

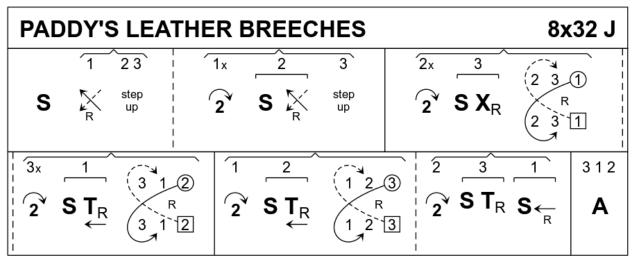
- 1-2 First couple set.
- 3-4 Second and third couples step up, whilst first couple cross to the opposite side giving right hand in passing to finish above first place facing out.
- 5-8 First couple cast off into third place on the opposite side. Meanwhile second couple set and cross giving right hand to finish above first place on the opposite side facing out, third couple step up into first place on bars 7 & 8.
- 9-12 First couple meet, lead up crossing back to own side and cast off into second place, whilst second couple cast off into third place and third couple set and cross giving right hand.
- 13-16 First couple set and turn with right hand to their original places, whilst second couple lead up cross to own side and cast off into second place and third couple cast off into third place.
- 17-20 First couple cast off into third place on own side of the set. Meanwhile second couple set and turn with the right hand into first place on own side whilst third couple meet, lead up crossing back to first place on own side and cast off into second place.
- 21-24 First couple set and lead up into second place. Meanwhile second couple cast off into third place to meet and third couple set and turn with the right hand: all finish facing the top in a promenade hold.
- 25-32 Third, first and second couples dance an allemande.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Paddy's Leather Breeches

Note

The above phrasing indicates the pattern of the dance, it will be obvious that in order for the dance to flow easily some slight leeway is needed in the phrasing, dancers will not always be in the exact positions defined at the end of each phrase but will pass through these positions as dictated by a logical smooth flow of the continuing pattern of movement.



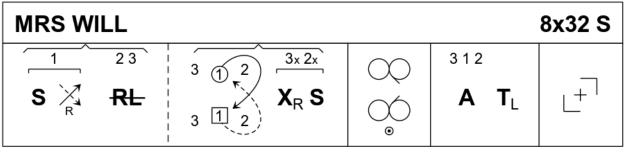
John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

Mrs Will

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

- 1-8 First couple set, lead down crossing over between second couple; cast off behind third position and lead up crossing back to finish in second place on own side facing out. At the same time second and third couples dance half rights and lefts; then cross over giving right hand to partner and set.
- 9-16 Reels of three on the sides, first couple dance out and up to commence the reels. All finish in the middle of the set facing up in a promenade hold.
- 17-24 Third, first and second couples dance an allemande: on the last two bars first couple turn with the left hand to face their first corners.
- 25-32 First couple turn corner, partner, corner and cross back to own side giving left hand to partner.

Repeat from second place. Recommended tune: Mrs Will



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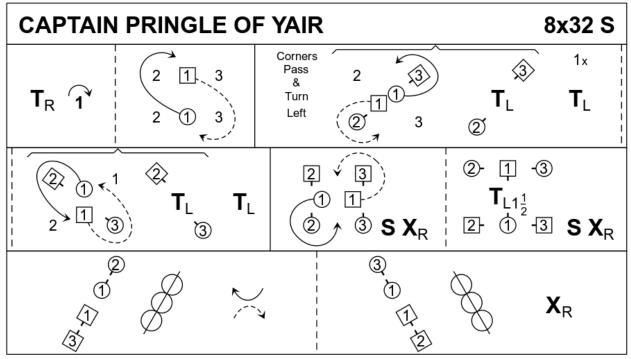
Captain Pringle of Yair

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

- 1-2 First couple turn by the right hand to face out on own side.
- 3-4 First couple cast off into second place, second couple step up.
- 5-8 First man dances up between second couple and casts off behind second lady whilst first lady dances down between third couple and casts up behind third man. First couple finish facing their first corners.
- 9-16 Corners pass and turn by the left hand:
 - 9-12 first corners dance in to the centre passing dancing couple by the left, turn with the left hand and dance out to place, whilst first couple dance out passing corners by the left, cast round to their left, dance in and turn by the left hand to face their second corners;
 12 16 report with accord corners to finish facing third corner.
 - 13-16 repeat with second corners to finish facing third corner.
- 17-20 First man dances up between second couple and casts off into second place on own side, whilst first lady dances down between third couple and casts up into second place on own side; at the same time second and third couples set and cross over giving right hand to partner to finish facing up and down the set on the sidelines.
- 21-24 First couple turn one and a half times with the left hand to finish facing their first corner positions. Meanwhile second and third ladies set and change places on the men's side of the set, giving right hand in passing whilst second and third men do the same on the ladies' side of the set.
- 25-28 First couple dance a half reel of four on the first diagonal, passing left shoulder to face their second corner positions.
- 29-32 First couple dance a half a reel of four on the second diagonal and cross over to second place on own side giving right hand in passing.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Captain Pringle of Yair



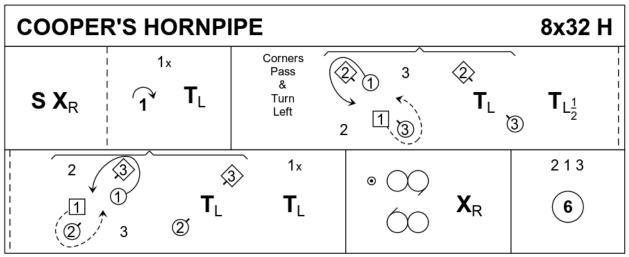
John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

Cooper's Hornpipe

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

- 1-4 First couple set and cross over giving right hand in passing.
- 5-6 First couple cast off into second place on the opposite side, second couple step up.
- 7-8 First couple turn with the left hand to finish facing second corners.
- 9-16 Corners pass and turn with the left hand:
 - 9-12 second corners dance in passing the dancing couple by the left, turn with the left hand and dance out to place. Meanwhile first couple dance out passing their corners by the left, cast round to the left to meet and give left hands to turn half way to face their first corners;
 - 13-16 repeat with first corners, first couple turn with the left hand to finish facing first corners again.
- 17-22 First couple dance reels of three on the sides with their corners, passing first corners by the left to commence and finishing in second place.
- 23-24 First couple cross back to own side giving right hand in passing.
- 25-32 Second, first and third couples dance six hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Repeat from second place. Recommended tune: Cooper's Hornpipe



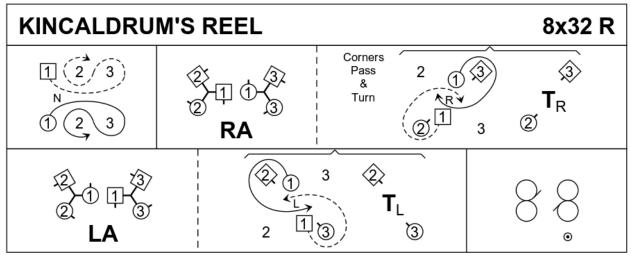
John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

Kincaldrum's Reel

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

- 1-8 First couple dance down between second and third couples, cast up behind third couple; dance up to the top and cast off into second place; second couple step up on bars 7 & 8.
- 9-12 First lady dances right hands across in a wheel with second couple whilst first man does the same with third couple. First couple finish facing their first corners.
- 13-16 Corners pass and turn (by the right). Dancing couple turn by the right to finish with man up and lady down.
- 17-20 First man dances left hands across in a wheel with second couple whilst first lady dances the same with third couple. First couple finish facing their second corners.
- 21-24 Corners pass and turn by the left. Dancing couple turn by the left hand to face their first corners.
- 25-32 First lady passes second man by the left shoulder to dance a reel of three across the set with second couple; first man similarly passes third lady by the left to dance a reel of three across the set with third couple. First couple finish in second place on own side.

Repeat from second place. Recommended tune: Kincaldrum's Reel



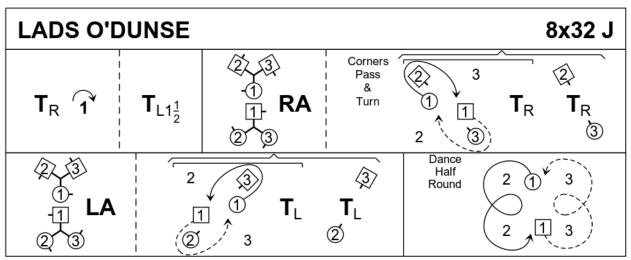
John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

Lads O' Dunse

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

- 1-4 First couple turn by the right hand and cast off into second place, second couple step up on bars 3 & 4.
- 5-8 First couple turn by the left hand one and a half times, finishing in the middle of the set.
- 9-12 First man dances right hands across with second and third ladies, whilst first lady dances right hands across with second and third men. First couple finish facing their second corners.
- 13-16 Corners pass and turn (by the right). First couple turn by the right hand to finish in the middle, lady facing up and man facing down.
- 17-20 First man dances left hands across with second and third ladies, whilst first lady dances left hands across with second and third men. First couple finish facing their first corners.
- 21-24 Corners pass and turn by the left. First couple turn by the left to finish in second place on the opposite side facing out.
- 25-32 First couple dance half round: first man casts up behind second lady and dances in to face down the set between second couple. Meanwhile first lady casts down behind third man and dances in to face up between third couple; immediately the dancing couple turn left about and cast into second place on own sides (man behind second man and lady behind third lady).

Repeat from second place. Recommended tune: Lads O'Dunse



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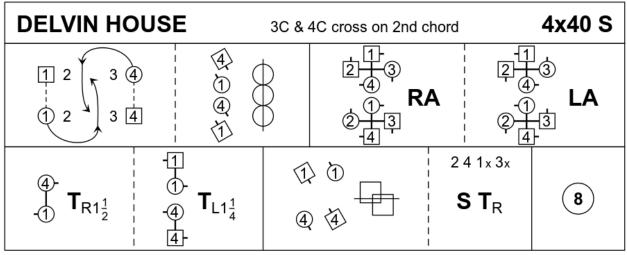
3C/4C longwise set.

Delvin House

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

- 1-4 First man followed by his partner casts off behind second man and crosses towards the opposite side of the set, at the same time fourth man followed by his partner casts up behind third man and crosses towards the other side of the set; the two men pass by the left shoulder to finish facing each other's partner. Second couple step up and third couple down.
- 5-8 First and fourth couples dance a half reel of four across the set, commencing by passing each other's partner by the right shoulder.
- 9-16 First and second men with third and fourth ladies dance right hands across in a wheel and back with the left hands on the men's side of the set; at the same time their partners dance hands across and back on the ladies' side of the set.
- 17-20 First and fourth men turn one and a half times with the right hands to change places.
- 21-24 First and fourth men turn their own partners one and a quarter times with the left hand to finish on the sides of the set: first couple on the ladies' side with first lady in second place and first man in third place; and fourth couple on the men's side, with fourth man in second place and fourth lady in third place, men facing out.
- 25-28 First and fourth couples dance half a ladies' chain, to start first man casts up and fourth man casts off.
- 29-30 All four couples join hands on the sides and set.
- 31-32 All four couples turn with the right hand once round.
- 33-40 Eight hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right. Finish in the order 2, 4, 1, 3.

Repeat from new places. Recommended tune: Delvin House



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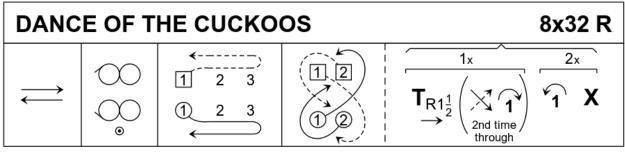
Dance of the Cuckoos

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

- 1-8 First couple dance down the middle and back, to finish facing out.
- 9-16 First, second and third couples dance reels of three on own sides of the set, second couple dance up and in to commence; first couple finish facing out.
- 17-20 First couple cast off behind own lines for four steps.
- 21-24 First couple cast up to original places.
- 25-28 First and second couples dance half a double figure of eight, first couple lead down crossing over to commence whilst second couple cast up.
- 29-32 First couple turn one and a half times with the right hand to finish in second place on own side, whilst second couple cast up to the top and cross over to own side.

Repeat from second place, but on bars 29-32 first couple cross down to second place on own side and cast off into third place.

Recommended tune: Dance of the Cuckoos



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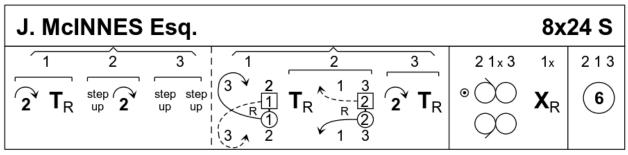
3C/4C longwise set.

J. McInnes Esq.

A twenty-four bar Strathspey for three couples in a longwise set.

- 1-8 First couple cast off behind second and third couples, turn once round with the right hand, lead up to the top crossing to the opposite side and cast off into second place. Meanwhile second couple step up on bars 1 & 2, cast off two places, turn with the right hand and lead up to first place on own side; at the same time third couple join hands with second couple to step up on bars 1 & 2, step up again on bars 3 & 4; cast off to their original places and turn with the right hand. Second and third couples finish facing out.
- 9-14 Second, first and third couples dance reels of three on the sides of the set, first couple dance in and down to commence.
- 15-16 First couple cross to own side giving right hand in passing.
- 17-24 Six hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Repeat from second place. Recommended tune: J. McInnes Esq.



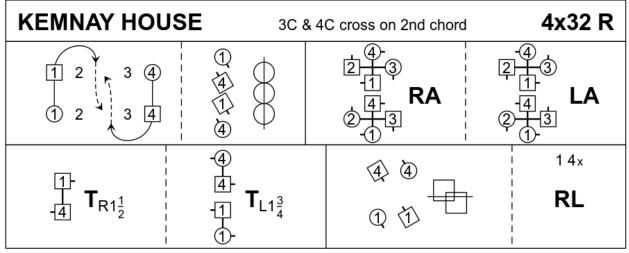
John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

Kemnay House

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

- 1-4 First lady followed by her partner casts off behind second lady and crosses towards the opposite side of the set. Meanwhile fourth lady followed by her partner casts up behind third lady and crosses towards the other side; the two ladies pass by the left shoulder to finish facing each other's partner. Second couple step up and third couple step down.
- 5-8 First and fourth couples dance a half a reel of four across the set.
- 9-16 First and second ladies dance right hands across in a wheel, and back with the left hand with third and fourth men on the ladies' side of the set, whilst their partners dance similar wheels on the men's side of the set.
- 17-20 First and fourth ladies turn one and a half times with the right hand to change places.
- 21-24 First and fourth couples turn one and three quarters with the left hand to finish on the sidelines, first couple on the men's side with lady in third place and man in second place; and fourth couple on the ladies' side with man in third place and lady in second place: the men finish facing out.
- 25-28 First and fourth couples dance a half a ladies' chain, the men cast to enter the chain.
- 29-32 First and fourth couples dance half rights and lefts. Finish in the order 2, 4, 1, 3.

Repeat from new places. Recommended tune: Kemnay House



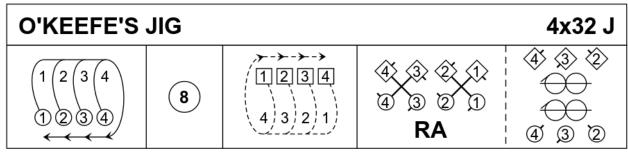
John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

O'Keefe's Jig

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

- 1-8 All four men cross over passing their partners by the right and commence to cast off, fourth man followed by the other three men crosses back to own side and dances up to finish in first place.
- 9-16 Eight hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.
- 17-24 All four ladies cross over passing the opposite man by the right and commence to cast up, first lady followed by the other ladies crosses back to own side and casts off into fourth place.
- 25-28 Fourth and third couples, at the top, dance right hands across in a wheel once round, whilst second and first couples do the same at the foot.
- 29-32 Fourth, third and second couples dance half reels of three on the sides of the set, fourth and thirds pass by the right to commence.

Repeat from new places. Recommended tune: O'Keefe's Jig



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

4C/4C longwise set

Lady Graham's Strathspey

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

- 1-2 First couple cross below second couple, who step up.
- 3-4 First lady casts off behind third man whilst first man casts up behind second lady.
- 5-8 First lady dances out between second and third ladies, casts up behind second lady and dances in to meet her partner. At the same time first man dances out between second and third men, casts off behind third man and dances up to meet his partner; first couple take a promenade hold and face out between second and third men.
- 9-12 First couple dance a half a reel of three with their first corners (second man and third lady) and finish facing third man; they commence by passing right shoulder.
- 13-16 First couple pass third man by the right shoulder to dance a half reel of three with their second corners (third man and second lady), they finish facing out between second and third men on the ladies side.
- 17-24 First couple lead out between second and third men, first lady crossing in front of first man and casting up behind third man, whilst first man casts off behind second man, they dance in to meet and face out on the men's side of the set; they again lead out crossing, first man casting up and first lady casting off, then dance in to meet facing out on the ladies' side of the set. At the same time second and third couples dance rights and lefts all the way round, commencing by giving right hands to own partners.
- 25-28 First couple again take a promenade hold and dance a half a reel of three with their first corners, commencing by passing second man by the right shoulder; they finish facing third man (in first lady's position).
- 29-32 First couple dance a half a reel of three with their second corners, commencing by passing third man by the right shoulder; as they finish the reel, first couple separate, first lady facing up between second couple and first man down between third couple.
- 33-36 First couple dance anticlockwise round their first corners into second place on the opposite side of the set; first lady casting off behind second man whilst first man casts up behind third lady.
- 37-40 First couple turn one and a half times with the right hand to their own sides of the set.
- 41-48 All three couples dance six hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.

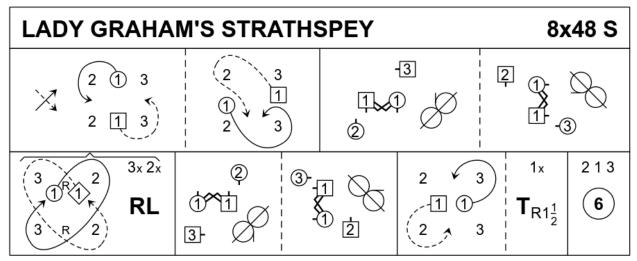
Repeat from second place. On bars 37-40 of the repeat, dancing couple cross to own side giving right hand in passing and cast off into third place, third couple stepping up, so that first couple are at the foot prior to the final circle.

Recommended tune: Lady Graham's Strathspey

Note

The dance may also be performed in a three couple set for demonstrations, by crossing and casting on bars 37-40 as described for the repeat.

(diagram on next page)



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

Hangleton Strathspey

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

- 1-4 First couple cross over giving right hand and cast off into second place, second couple step up on bars 3 & 4.
- 5-8 First couple cross over giving left hand, first lady casts up into original place whilst first man casts off into third place. Second lady steps down and third man steps up on bars 7 & 8.
- 9-16 First man and third lady dance down the middle for three steps, followed by third man and second lady and second man and first lady. First man and third lady cast up round third man and second lady, meet and lead up between second man and first lady (who separate to allow them to do so) and lead up to first place; third man and second lady cast up round second man and first lady on bar 13 and lead up to second place whilst second man and first lady meet on bar 13 and lead up to finish in third place. All three couples finish facing the top in a promenade hold.
- 17-24 All three couples dance an allemande. On the last two bars first couple set advancing to finish back to back facing their first corners, whilst second and third couples fall back to corner positions.
- 25-32 First couple turn their 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 in passing.

Repeat from second place.

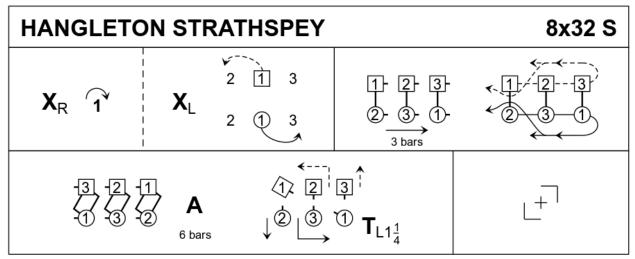
Recommended tune: Rebel War Song

Note

On bars 23-24 first man is in third place and first lady in first place so to turn they must move towards each other between third man and second lady who are in second place. Second lady should fall back to second position and step up into first place. Third man should fall back into second place and step down into third place. Second man and third lady must fall back to the sidelines and be prepared as first corners to turn immediately.

Editor's note to the 2021 edition

On bars 23-24, the original instructions specified that the first couple turn with the left hand to finish facing their first corners. This has been altered to a set advancing, that we anticipate flows more naturally.



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 8

Version History

	First re-published version.
	This day marks what would have been John's 90th birthday.
1.01 / 2022-12-20	Keith Rose's diagrams added.
	Lady Graham's Strathspey: bar 41ff stated "bars" instead of "hands".
1.02 / 2024-05-19	Description and diagram of "Willie Shaw" corrected to "Strathspey".