

The Whetherly Book of Scottish Country Dances

Number 5

By John W. Mitchell

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Original Introduction

Here it is at last, the book that all my faithless fans have been dreading. The fifth in the series, with more to come. Once again duplicated, but hopefully the machine has now been mastered so that there will not be so many faint pages in this issue. My apologies for the poor reproduction on one or two pages in book number four. No new formations in this book, but probably a few unfamiliar ones which I hope will prove of interest. At least thinking up these ideas and producing the books keeps me off the streets at night which must be a blessing to somebody, somewhere.

John W. Mitchell (1980)

Introduction to the new edition

For the new edition, we can be grateful that progress in technology has allowed faint copies of typewritten books to become more or less an issue of the past. With this version, printing is the sole responsibility of the interested reader; the editors aim simply to enable wide distribution and availability of the Whetherly Books in digital format, via the world wide web. In this way, we hope that the collection of Whetherly dances are preserved for posterity and that those dances more congenial to the community are not forgotten, but continue to make appearances every so often. Or, alternatively phrased; don't blame me if your printer doesn't work and please try out the dances you like the look of. Not all of them will be popular, but some of them might be, given the chance.

Alison M. W. Mitchell (2020)

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.



Banks Hornpipe

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

- 1-8 First couple lead down the middle and back to finish in original places facing out.
- 9-14 First and second couples dance three quarters of a double figure of eight, to commence first couple cast off whilst second couple cross up into first place on opposite side. Second couple finish in first place on own side and first couple finish in second place on opposite side.
- 15-16 First couple turn with the left hand to face first corners.
- 17-24 First couple turn first corner with the right hand, partner with the left hand, second corner with the right hand and then cross back to own side giving left hand, to finish in second place facing out.
- 25-32 Second, first and third couples dance reels of three on the sides, to commence first and third ladies pass by the right shoulder whilst first and third men pass by the left shoulder.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Banks Hornpipe

Cobham Hall

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

Strathspey

- 1-4 First and third couples change places giving right hands in passing and set. Meanwhile second and fourth couples set and change places giving right hands in passing.
5-8 Repeat bars 1-4 to return to original places.
9-12 The men dance right hands across half way and turn opposite lady with the left hand.
13-16 Repeat bars 9-12 to return to original places.

Reel

- 17-20 The ladies all set and cast one place clockwise.
21-24 Eight hands round to the left.
25-28 The ladies all set and cast one place anticlockwise.
29-32 Eight hands round to the right to original places.

Strathspey

- 33-36 The men all set and cast into their partners' places, ladies step into their partners' places on bars 35 & 36.
37-40 The men dance right hands across once round to finish facing their partners.
41-48 Grand chain, one step to each hand, giving right hand to partner to commence. Finish in partners' places with ladies facing in and men facing out.

Reel

- 49-64 Schiehallion reels, passing partner by the right shoulder to commence. All finish in partners' places.

Strathspey

- 65-68 First and third couples set and change places giving right hand in passing. Meanwhile second and fourth couples change places giving right hand and set.
69-72 Repeat bars 65-68 to return to partners' places.
73-76 The ladies dance right hands across half way and turn opposite man with the left hand.
77-80 Repeat bars 73-76 back to partners' places.

Reel

- 81-84 The men all set and cast one place clockwise.
85-88 Eight hands round to the left.
89-92 The men all set and cast one place anticlockwise.
93-96 Eight hands round to the right.

Strathspey

- 97-100 The ladies set and cast to their original places, the men step into their original places on bars 99 & 100.
101-104 The ladies dance right hands across in a wheel to finish in their original places facing their partners.
105-112 Grand chain, one step to each hand, giving right hand to partner to commence. All finish in original places facing partner.

Reel

- 113-116 All set to partners and change places giving right hand in passing.
117-120 All set to partners and turn into a waltz hold; men take the ladies' right hands in their left hands, the lady turning to her right under an arch made by their raised hands, with two pas de basque steps, to finish in the waltz hold.
121-128 All dance off in a polka, or in the ballroom polka once round the set.

Recommended tunes: Strathspey: Luss Road; Reel: Jenny's Blue E'en

Note

Cobham Hall in Kent is the ancestral home of the Darnley family, who still live in the village of Cobham. This dance was inspired by some exercises which were given to a Weekend School held at Cobham Hall by Andrew Ghillies.

The Coronation

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

- 1-4 First and third couples join nearer hands with partner and advance and retire.
- 5-8 First and third couples dance half rights and lefts to finish in two lines across the set between second and fourth couples.
- 9-12 First lady and third man dance right hands across in a wheel with second couple. Meanwhile first man and third lady dance right hands across in a wheel with fourth couple.
- 13-16 First and third couples dance left hands across in a wheel.
- 17-20 First and third couples dance half rights and lefts to finish back to back with partner, first man facing second lady, first lady facing fourth man, third man facing fourth lady and third lady facing second man.
- 21-24 All dance back to back with the person they are facing.
- 25-32 All dance reels of four across the set passing the person they are facing by the right shoulder to commence.
- 33-36 All turn the person they are facing one and a half times with the right hand to change places, at the same time turning out to finish back in a square set.
- 37-40 First man and third lady, in second place turn one and a half times with the left hand to change places. Meanwhile, first lady and third man do the same in fourth place, as do second lady and fourth man in first place and second man and fourth lady in third place.
- 41-44 First and third couples dance a half a ladies' chain.
- 45-46 All change places with corner giving right hands in passing.
- 47-48 All change places on the sides giving left hands in passing.
- 49-52 Second and fourth couples dance a half a ladies' chain.
- 53-54 All change places with corner giving right hands in passing.
- 55-56 All change places with own partner giving left hands in passing to finish in progressed positions.
- 57-64 Eight hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.

Repeat with new top couple, after the repeat all will be in opposite positions to which they started, the dance may be repeated two more times to finish in original places.

Recommended tune: The Coronation

Doon the Burn

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

- 1-4 First couple dance a half a figure of eight round second couple, crossing down between second couple to commence and finishing in partners place.
- 5-8 First man and second lady turn one and a half with the right hand to change places. Meanwhile, first lady and second man turn one and a half times with the left hand to change places.
- 9-12 First and second couples dance back to back with partners.
- 13-16 First and second couples dance half rights and lefts.
- 17-24 First and second couples dance a ladies' chain.
- 25-28 First and second couples dance half rights and lefts.
- 29-32 First and second couples join hands on the sides and advance, and retire.
- 33-36 Second couple dance a half a figure of eight round first couple, crossing down between first couple to commence and finishing in first place on opposite side.
- 37-40 First and second couples turn partner one and a half times with the right hand to finish on own side of the set.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Doon the Burn

Far Frae Hame

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

- 1-8 First and second couples dance rights and lefts, third and fourth couples do the same.
 9-10 First couple cross down to second place on opposite side, second couple step up.
 11-12 First man and third lady turn half way with the right hand to change places whilst first lady and third man turn half way with the left hand to change places.
 13-14 First couple cross down to fourth place on own side, fourth couple step up.
 15-16 First and fifth ladies turn half way with the right hand to change places whilst first and fifth men turn half way with the left hand to change places. Order is now 2, 3, 4, 5, 1.
 First and fourth couple finish facing the top with nearer hands joined, third and fifth couple face down with nearer hands joined, second couple in top place face partner.
 17-32 Weaving making arches, the couples on the outside at each pass raise their hands, to make an arch over the couple passing between them:
 17-18 first couple dance up under fifth couple's arch, fourth couple do the same with third couple, whilst second couple turn with the right hand, finish facing down with nearer hands joined;
 19-20 first couple make an arch, third couple dance down under the arch; fourth couple do the same with second couple, whilst fifth couple (now in bottom place) turn with the right hand, finish facing up with nearer hands joined.
 21-32 repeat the pattern of bars 17-20 three more times.
 Finish in the order 3, 1, 2, 5, 4.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: Far Frae Hame

Editor's note to the 2020 edition

The original pattern of weaving with arches could not be reasonably completed within the time available. The new description therefore shows an alternative suggestion, leading to a different progression than originally intended:

- 15-16 First and fifth ladies turn half way with the right hand to change places whilst first and fifth men turn half way with the left hand to change places. First couple finish facing the top with nearer hands joined, the other four couples all face down with nearer hands joined.
 17-32 Weaving making arches, the couples on the outside at each pass raise their hands, to make an arch over the couple passing between them:
 17-20 first couple dance up between fifth couple, outside fourth couple, between third couple and outside second couple to the top. The other couples dance down to follow, fifth couple dancing between fourth couple and outside third couple to third place;
 21-24 fifth couple dance between second couple and outside first couple to the top and fourth couple dance between third couple and outside second couple to third place;
 25-28 fourth couple dance between first couple and outside fifth couple to first place, whilst third couple dances between second couple and outside first couple to third place;
 29-32 third couple dance between fifth couple and outside fourth couple to the top. Second couple dance between first couple outside fifth couple, between fourth couple and outside third couple to the top.
 Order is now 2, 3, 4, 5, 1.

Note

The phrasing of the sixteen bars is only approximate. The dancers dance down the set as they are brought into the weaving by first couple, turning inwards to follow. They continue dancing up the set to the top, turn inwards to dance down and return to their commencing positions.

Farnie House

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

- 1-4 Each man sets to the lady on his right and turns her with the right hand once round.
- 5-8 Each man sets to the lady on his left and turns her with the left hand once round.
- 9-16 Reels of three, each man passing his right hand partner by the right shoulder to commence. On the last two bars the men turn with the left hand three quarters to face the other man's right hand partner.
- 17-24 Reels of three each man dances a reel of three with the other man's ladies, passing by the right shoulder to commence, and finishing between them having changed partners.
- 25-28 All advance and retire.
- 29-32 All set, and change places with the person facing, giving right hand in passing, to finish back to back with that person facing a new trio.

Repeat with new partners from new places.

Recommended tune: Farnie House

Note

The ladies progress round the room in the direction which they were originally facing. The men change partners and direction every thirty-two bars, thus oscillating round their commencing positions.

Far O'er the Sea

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

- 1-8 First couple lead down the middle, turn to their left and lead up the middle on opposite side to finish back to back facing second couple. Second couple having stepped up into first place on bars 3 & 4.
- 9-16 First man and second lady join two hands, first lady and second man do the same: they dance down the middle with four slip steps, set; dance up the middle with four slip steps and again set.
- 17-24 First and second couples dance a reel of four across the set. At the end, first couple pass by the left shoulder to finish facing their first corners.
- 25-32 First couple change places with their first corners giving right hand in passing, second man and third lady turn one and a half times with the left hand to change sides, then change places with first couple giving right hand; first couple turn one and a quarter times with the left hand to face their second corners.
- 33-40 First couple repeat bars 25-32 with their second corners to finish in second place on their own sides.
- 41-44 First couple dance half rights and lefts with their first corners.
- 45-48 First couple dance half rights and lefts with their second corners.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Far O'er the Sea

The Forth Bridge

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

- 1-4 First man dances a half reel of three with second couple, crossing down to commence.
- 5-8 First couple take a promenade hold to commence a half reel of three with second couple, but on bars 7 & 8 first man casts off behind third man.
- 9-16 First man dances a reel of three across the set with third couple: on bars 9-10 first lady crosses down between second couple to join her partner in a promenade hold, as he reaches the ladies' side of the set, and continues to complete the reel with him. First couple finish the reel below third couple in the centre of the set facing up, third couple finish facing out.
- 17-20 First man passes third lady by the right shoulder to commence a half reel of three on the ladies' side of the set; first lady passes third man by the left shoulder to commence a half reel of three on the men's side of the set; third couple cast off and second couple dance in and down to start the reels.
- 21-24 First couple cross back to own sides to dance a second half reel of three on the sides with second and third couples; first couple finish in third place.
- 25-32 All three couples dance six hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: The Forth Bridge

The Girl in a Blue Dream

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

- 1-2 First couple cross over giving right hand in passing, second couple turn to face out, first and second men take each other's partners in a promenade hold.
- 3-8 First and second couple in promenade hold dance reels of three on the side with third and fourth couples, third couple dance in and up to commence. Finish with first couple in second place on opposite side, second couple in first place.
- 9-16 First and third couples dance a ladies' chain.
- 17-24 All four couples dance a grand chain, one step to each hand, second and fourth couples cross, whilst first and third couples change places on the sides to commence.
- 25-28 First lady followed by her partner, cast off behind third man and cross over, first couple finishing in third place. Third couple step up on bars 27 & 28.
- 29-30 First lady cast behind fourth lady and first man dance down between fourth couple, first couple finishing in fourth place. Fourth couple step up.
- 31-32 First lady and fourth lady turn with the right hand once round on own sideline, as do first and fourth men.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: The Girl in a Blue Dream

Editor's note to the 2020 edition

As the original bars 25-32 would not have allowed sufficient time for the first couple to reach the bottom of the set or for third and fourth couple to step up, the dance description has been altered. Here is the original version:

- 25-30 First lady followed by her partner, cast off behind third man, cross over and cast off behind fourth lady cross over to the opposite side.
- 31-32 First couple cross right hand to own side of the set.

Glencairn Reel

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

- 1-8 First couple dance reels of three on opposite side of the set with second and third couples, crossing between second couple to commence.
- 9-16 First couple dance reels of three with second and third couples on own side of the set, again crossing between second couple to commence.
- 17-20 First couple dance a half figure of eight round second couple, crossing between second couple to commence and finishing in first place on opposite side.
- 21-24 First man and second lady turn one and a half times with the left hand. Meanwhile first lady and second man turn with the right hand one and a half times.
- 25-28 Second couple dance a half figure of eight round first couple, crossing down between first couple to commence and finishing in first place on opposite side.
- 29-32 First and second couples turn partner with the right hand one and a half times to finish on own side of the set.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Glencairn Reel

Editor's note to the 2020 edition

In bars 21-24, the original instructions were for first man and second lady to also turn with the right hand. This has been changed to a more natural left hand turn.

Glenkiln Jig

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

- 1-8 First couple dance reels of three on opposite side of the set, crossing down between second couple to commence and finishing in first place on opposite side.
- 9-12 First couple dance down crossing over between second couple and cast up into original places. Meanwhile, second couple set and cross over giving right hand in passing to finish in second place on opposite side facing out.
- 13-16 First man and second lady turn one and a half times with the right hand to change places. Meanwhile, first lady and second man turn one and a half times with the left hand to change places.
- 17-24 First and second couples dance four hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.
- 25-32 First and second couples dance a ladies' chain.
- 33-36 Second couple dance a half figure of eight round first couple, crossing between first couple to commence and finishing in first place on own side.
- 37-40 First and second couples turn once with the right hand.
- 41-48 First and third couples dance rights and lefts.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Glenkiln Jig

Gloomy Winter

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

- 1-2 First couple cross over to second place on opposite side, second couple cast up into first place on own side.
- 3 First man and second lady change places giving left hand in passing whilst first lady and second man change places giving right hand in passing.
- 4-5 First couple cross over to second place on own side, whilst second couple cast up into first place.
- 6 First and second ladies change places giving left hand in passing, whilst first and second men change places giving right hand in passing.
- 7-8 First couple cross over to finish facing their first corners, whilst second couple cast up into first place.
- 9-16 First couple turn first corner with the right hand, partner with the left hand, second corner with the right hand and partner with the left hand, to finish in second place on opposite side facing out.
- 17-24 First couple pass second corner by the left shoulder to commence reels of three on the sides with corners; first couple finish in second place on opposite side facing out.
- 25-32 First couple dance half round: they cast to their left behind their second corners, dance in to meet facing up and down the set, turning left about they then cast round each other's first corner to finish in second place on own side of the set.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Gloomy Winter

The Gobbie Oh!

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

- 1-2 First couple cross over giving right hand in passing, second couple turn to face out, first and second pick up each other's partners in a promenade hold.
- 3-8 Reels of three on the side: first man and second lady dance a reel with third and fourth ladies, passing third lady by the right to commence. Meanwhile, first lady and second man dance a reel with third and fourth men, passing third man by the left to commence. Finish the reel with second couple in first place and first couple in second place still on opposite side.
- 9-16 First and third couples dance rights and lefts.
- 17-24 Reels of four on the sides of the set.
- 25-32 First couple cast up to the top of the set, lead down between second couple, cast off behind third couple and cross between fourth couple to fourth place on own side. Third couple step up on bars 29 & 30, fourth couple step up on bars 31 & 32.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: The Gobbie Oh!

Good Humour

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

- 1-4 First man and second lady change places giving right hand in passing, first man casts up behind second man to his original place whilst second lady casts off behind first lady to her original place. Meanwhile, first lady and second man set and change places giving right hand in passing.
- 5-6 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way.
- 7-8 First man and second lady set. Meanwhile, second man casts up to the top behind his partner and first lady casts off behind her partner.
- 9-10 Second man crosses over and casts into second place on the ladies' side, whilst first lady crosses over and casts up into first place on the men's side; at the same time first man and second lady turn one and a half times with the left hand to finish facing their own partners.
- 11-14 First and second couples dance a half reel of four.
- 15-16 First and second couples turn partner with the right hand three quarters round to finish with first couple on the ladies' side and second couple on the men's side with the ladies above their partners.
- 17-20 First and second couples join nearer hands with partner and advance and retire.
- 21-24 First couple dance a half figure of eight round second couple, crossing between second couple to commence.
- 25-28 First man and second lady face down with nearer hands joined, first lady and second man face up similarly and both couples advance and retire.
- 29-32 First man and second lady dance a half figure of eight round their partners, crossing down between them, first man casting up to his original place and second lady casting up to first place on the ladies' side.
- 33-36 First and second couples join nearer hands on the sides and advance and retire.
- 37-40 First and second men dance a half figure of eight round their partners, crossing between the ladies to commence; finish with second couple on own side in first place facing down the set and first couple in second place on own side facing up the set.
- 41-48 First and second couples dance rights and lefts, commencing by giving right hands on the sides of the set.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Good Humour

Highland Castle

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

Strathspey

- 1-8 All four couples dance a grand chain, one step to each hand.
- 9-12 All four couples set and turn partner once round with the right hand.
- 13-16 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel, third and fourth couples do the same.
- 17-24 Reels of four on the sides.
- 25-28 First couple lead down the middle to separate just below fourth couple. Meanwhile second couple cast off on own side to dance in below first couple.
- 29-32 Second couple lead up the middle to first place. Meanwhile first couple dance in to follow second couple up the middle and finish back to back facing first corners.
It is easier for first couple if they lead up with left hand, so that first man can guide his partner across on bar 32.

Reel

- 1-4 First couple turn first corner once round with the right hand, join left hand with second corner in triangle formation and all set.
- 5-8 First couple release right hand, turn second corner once round with the left hand and again join right hands with first corner in triangle formation and all set.
- 9-16 Dancing couple pass half round to finish in second place on own side, i.e. they cast round first corners and dance in to face up and down the set, immediately pulling their right shoulders back to cast round their partner's second corner into second place.
- 17-20 All three couples join hands on the sides and advance and retire,
- 21-24 First couple cross over and cast off into third place on opposite side, third couple stepping up on bars 23 & 24.
- 25-28 Third, first and fourth couples join hands and advance and retire,
- 29-32 First couple cross over giving right hand and cast off into fourth place. Fourth couple step up on bars 31 & 32.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tunes: Strathspey: Tom's Highland Fling; Reel: Harveston Castle

Highland Whisky

A thirty-two bar Strathspey for a trio comprising one man and two ladies, in a circle facing anticlockwise round the room.

- 1-4 All set Highland Schottische with the right foot, then advance with two travelling steps commencing with the left foot.
- 5-8 All set with Highland Schottische with the left foot, then advance with two travelling steps commencing with the right foot.
- 9-10 The lady on the man's right dances under an arch made by the man with the lady on his left, the man also dances under the arch. Meanwhile the lady on the man's left dances round to finish all facing in the opposite direction.
- 11-12 All advance for two steps.
- 13-14 Again they change direction, this time the lady on the man's left dancing under an arch made by the man with the lady on his right, as the lady on his right dances round.
- 15-16 All advance for two steps.
- 17-20 The man sets to and turns his right hand partner, with the right hand.
- 21-24 The man sets to his left hand partner and turns her with the left hand.
- 25-30 They dance a reel of three, passing the right hand partner by the right shoulder to commence. Finish the reel with the man facing anticlockwise, but the ladies facing clockwise.
- 31-32 The men advance for two steps. Meanwhile the ladies advance and turn inwards to join the next man following their original partner.

Repeat with new partners.

Recommended tune: Highland Whisky

Ho Ho My Nut Brown Maiden

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

- 1-4 Second couple turn one and a quarter times with the right hand.
- 5-8 Second man dances left hands across with first couple whilst second lady dances left hands across with third couple.
- 9-12 Second man dances right hands across with third couple whilst second lady dances right hands across with first couple.
- 13-16 Second couple turn with the left hand to finish facing their first corners.
- 17-20 Second couple dance a half a reel of four with their first corners, passing left shoulder to face their second corners.
- 21-24 Second couple dance a half reel of four with their second corners to finish in second place on opposite side.
- 25-28 All three couples advance for two steps, joining hands in a circle, and retire for two steps; at the same time moving clockwise by one quarter around the set, finish still joined in a circle.
- 29-32 They again advance and retire moving clockwise, and fall back to original places on own side of the set.
- 33-34 All three couples set advancing to join both hands with partner.
- 35-36 All dance down the middle with four slip steps.
- 37-38 All dance up the middle with four slip steps.
- 39-40 First couple cast off into second place, second couple lead up to first place with nearer hand and third couple set falling back to the sidelines.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Ho Ho My Nut Brown Maiden

Humours of Castle Barnard

A thirty-two bar Reel for four couples in a circle round the room. First and second couples facing clockwise and third and fourth couples facing anticlockwise, with odd numbered couples on the outside and even numbered couples on the inside.

- 1-4 First and third couples dance right hands across in a wheel, second and fourth couples do the same.
- 5-8 First man and third lady turn with the left hand; first lady, third man, second man and fourth lady dance left hands across in a wheel; and second lady and fourth man turn with the left hand.
- 9-16 First and second couples dance a reel of four, third and fourth couples do the same.
- 17-24 First and third couples dance a ladies' chain, second and fourth couples do the same.
- 25-28 All join hands in two lines and advance and retire.
- 29-32 All set and cross giving right hands to finish facing a new line of dancers.

Repeat with new couples.

Recommended tune: The Humours of Castle Barnard

Humours of Glendart

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

- 1-4 First couple cross over giving right hand in passing and cast off into second place, second couple step up on bars 3 & 4.
- 5-8 First man dances down between third couple and casts up into second place on own side. Meanwhile, first lady dances up between second couple and casts off into second place on own side.
- 9-16 First man dances a figure of eight round second couple passing second lady by the right shoulder to commence. Meanwhile, first lady dances a figure of eight round third couple passing third man by the right shoulder to commence.
- 17-24 First lady dances a reel of three across the set with second couple whilst first man dances a reel of three across the set with third couple, first couple pass their first corners by the left shoulder to commence the reels.
- 25-32 Six hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: The Humours of Glendart

I Lo'ed Nae Lassie But Ane

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

- 1-8 First couple dance down the middle and up to finish opposite second position, second couple step up on bars 3 & 4 and turn to face out on bar 8.
- 9-12 First, second and third ladies dance right hands across in a wheel whilst the first, second and third men dance left hands across in a wheel.
- 13-16 First couple face the top and set twice, the lady commencing with her right foot and the man with his left foot. Meanwhile second and third couples dance a half figure of eight round first couple to finish on opposite sides, third couple crossing up to commence whilst second couple cast off.
- 17-20 First lady dances right hands across in a wheel with second and third men whilst first man dances left hands across in a wheel with second and third ladies.
- 21-24 First couple set whilst second and third couples dance another half figure of eight round them to return to own sides (as described above bars 13-16).
- 25-32 First couple lead up to the top with nearer hand, cast off into second place on own side, cross over giving right hand in passing and cast off into third place on opposite side, third couple step up on bars 31 & 32.
- 33-40 Extended Rondel for three couples:
- 33 second couple dance down under an arch made by third couple whilst first couple cross to own side passing by the right shoulder;
- 34 third couple cross over at the top passing by the left whilst second couple dance down under an arch made by first couple;
- 35 first and third couples meet on the sides whilst second couple cross over in third place passing by the right shoulder;
- 36 third lady and first man make an arch and cross whilst their partners dance under the arch to cross and second couple cast up on opposite side;
- 37 third couple cast off to meet second couple as first couple dance up on the sides between third couple;
- 38 first couple cross over to own side at the top whilst third lady and second man make an arch and cross over, second lady and third man crossing underneath the arch;
- 39 second couple cast up into second place whilst third couple dance down the sidelines between them, at the same time first couple dance down on the sides to meet second couple;
- 40 first couple make an arch and dance down into second place, second couple lead up under the arch into first place and third couple cross over to own side passing by the left shoulder.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: I Lo'ed Nae Lassie But Ane

Innes' Jig

A thirty-two bar Jig for three couples in a 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 man crosses down between third couple and casts up into second place. Meanwhile first lady crosses up between second couple and casts off into second place.
- 9-12 First couple cross over giving right hand and turn their second corners three quarters round with the left hand.
- 13-16 First couple change places up and down the set, giving right hand in passing, then turn their first corners three quarters with the left hand to finish in second place on opposite sides.
- 17-20 First couple cross over to own side giving right hand in passing, then first and third men turn with the left hand whilst first and second ladies do the same, first couple finish facing up and down the set.
- 21-24 First couple change places giving right hand in passing, first and third ladies turn three quarters with the left hand whilst first and second men do the same.
- 25-32 First man dances a reel of three with third couple whilst first lady dances a reel of three with second couple; first couple pass their first corners by the left shoulders to commence and finish in second place on own side.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Innes' Jig

Isle O'Walsay

A thirty-two bar Reel for sets of two couples in a circle round the room. First couples face clockwise and second couples face anticlockwise. Ladies on the men's right.

- 1-4 Four hands round to the left in a circle to place.
- 5-6 Continue to the left for four more slip steps, first couple dancing out of the circle and second couple into the centre of the room.
- 7-8 Four slip steps to the right back to place.
- 9-12 Four hands round in a circle to the right to place.
- 13-14 Continue to the right for four more slip steps, first couple dancing in and second couple dancing out.
- 15-16 Four slip steps to the left back to place.
- 17-24 Dance a ladies' chain.
- 25-26 All advance, first couple dancing under an arch made by second couple.
- 27-28 All continue to advance in the same direction but second couples dance under an arch made by the next first couple that they meet.
- 29-32 Repeat bars 25-28 to pass two more couples.

Repeat from new places.

Recommended tune: Isle O'Walsay

Jackson's Jig

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

- 1-4 First couple lead down the middle, second couple step up on bars 3 & 4. At the foot first couple both turn to their left to face up and join left hands into an allemande hold.
- 5-6 First couple dance up the middle in an allemande hold.
- 7-8 Releasing their right hands, first couple turn three quarters round with the left hand to finish facing own side.
- 9-12 First man dances right hands across in a wheel with second couple, whilst first lady dances right hands across in a wheel with third couple.
- 13-16 First couple turn with the left hand one and a half times to finish facing their first corners.
- 17-22 First man dances a reel of three across the set with third couple, whilst first lady dances a reel of three across the set with second couple. First couple pass first corners by the left shoulder to commence the reel and finish in second place on own side of the set.
- 23-24 First couple turn with the right hand once round.
- 25-32 Six hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Jackson's Jig

J. F. Mackenzie Esq. of Carrynahine

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

- 1-4 First couple turn with the right hand and cast off into second place on own side, second couple step up on bars 3 & 4.
- 5-8 First lady crosses up between second couple and casts off into second place on opposite side, whilst first man crosses down between third couple and casts up into second place on the ladies' side.
- 9-12 First couple turn their second corners by the right hand to finish facing their first corners.
- 13-16 First couple pass their first corners by the left shoulder to commence a half reel of three on the sides with their corners.
- 17-20 First couple turn their first corners (now in second corner places) by the right hand to finish facing their second corners (now in first corner places).
- 21-24 First couple pass their second corners by the left shoulder to commence half reels of three with their corners.
- 25-26 Second, first and third couples dance six hands round to the left half way.
- 27-28 Each man turns the lady on his right, once round, with both hands.
- 29-30 Continue to dance six hands round to bring second and third couples back to their original places.
- 31-32 First couple cross back to own side of the set giving right hand in passing.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: J. F. Mackenzie Esq. of Carrynahine

The Jig of Scurs

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

- 1-2 First couple cross over to second place on opposite side to finish facing out, second couple step up.
- 3-4 Second, first and third couples balance in line.
- 5-6 First couple turn their first corners with the right hand.
- 7-8 Second, first and third couples balance in line.
- 9-10 First couple turn their second corners with the left hand.
- 11-12 Second, first and third couples balance in line.
- 13-16 First couple cast off behind third couple and cross back to second place on own side, finishing facing out.
- 17-24 Second, first and third couples dance reels of three on own side of the set, first couple dancing out and up to commence.
- 25-32 Six hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: The Jig of Scurs

John McNeil's Reel

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

- 1-8 First man passes second man by the right to commence a figure of eight round second and third men: first lady crosses to follow her partner behind third man, then crosses back to her own side between second and third ladies and casts up to her original place.
- 9-16 First lady passes second lady by the left shoulder to dance a figure of eight round second and third ladies: first man crosses to follow first lady behind third lady, then crosses back to own side between second and third men and casts up to his original place.
- 17-24 First, second and third couples dance a promenade, first couple finish on the sidelines, second and third couples remain in the middle of the set facing up.
- 25-30 Second couple, followed by third couple, promenade up between first couple, cast off behind first man, cross over and cast up behind first lady then lead down between first couple.
- 31-32 Second couple cross over giving left hand and cast up into second place, whilst third couple cross between them into third place on own side.
- 33-36 First couple cross over giving right hand and cast off into second place, second couple step up on bars 35 & 36.
- 37-40 First couple dance a half figure of eight round second couple to finish in second place on own side.
- 41-48 First and second couples dance rights and lefts.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: John McNeil's Reel

Note

Bars 17-32 must be danced as a continuous flowing movement if it is to succeed.

Julia McMahon

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

- 1-8 First couple lead down the middle, turn round to their left retaining hands and lead up on opposite side. As they reach the top they release hands, join nearer hands with second couple and turn them so that both couples finish facing out, with first couple in top place still on opposite sides.
- 9-16 First couple with second couple in promenade hold cast off behind sidelines for four bars, turn outwards and cast up to finish with second couple in top place and first couple in second place.
- 17-20 Second, first and third couples, advance and retire.
- 21-22 Retaining hands on the sidelines: third lady and second lady dance in, third lady dances under an arch formed by the second lady and first man; first man dances under same arch (his own arm). Similarly on the men's side, bringing third couple to first place and second couple to third place, all facing out.
- 23-24 All set, second and third couples turning to face partner on the second step.
- 25-28 First couple cast up to the top and lead down to second place on opposite side whilst second and third couples dance half rights and lefts.
- 29-32 First couple cast off and cross over to third place on own side whilst second and third couples turn one and a half times to finish on own side, third couple moving into second place whilst turning.

Repeat with new top couple.

Recommended tune: Julia McMahon

Editor's note to the 2020 edition

Bars 21-22 have been rephrased with respect to the original instructions, which are reproduced below. The figure remains the same.

- 21-22 Retaining hands second couple dance down to second place and third couple dance up to first place, third couple passing under arches made by first and second couple, at the same time turning first couple under the arch to face out.

Kinlock of Kinlock

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

- 1-4 First man turns second lady once round with the right hand.
- 5-8 First couple turn with the left hand one and a half times to finish facing down the set, second lady steps up into first place on bars 7 & 8 and also faces down.
- 9-12 First man dances down the middle leading the two ladies by the nearer hand, second man dances up and follows them down the middle: all turn right about to face up.
- 13-16 Second man dances up to the top and faces down, first man leads the two ladies up for two steps, the two ladies turn inwards under arches made by their hands joined with first man, to finish facing across the set and join nearer hands with second man.
- 17-24 Four hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.
- 25-28 First and second couples dance a half ladies' chain, to finish with first couple in second place on own side and second couple in first place on opposite side.
- 29-32 Second couple dance a half figure of eight round first couple, crossing down between them to commence and finishing in first place on own side.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Kinlock of Kinlock

Lady Charlotte Campbell's Medley

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

- 1-4 First couple join both hands and dance down the middle for four slip steps, then slip up the middle.
- 5-8 First couple set, then releasing hands cast off into second place, second couple step up on bars 7 & 8.
- 9-16 First couple turn with the right hand for four bars, then turn with the left hand to finish facing their first corners. Meanwhile, second and third couples dance rights and lefts.
- 17-20 First couple turn their first corners with the right hand and finish facing their second corners.
- 21-24 First couple dance a half a reel of three with their corners, passing their second corner by the left shoulder to commence.
- 25-28 First couple turn their second corners (now in first corner position) by the right hand to finish facing their first corner (in second corner position).
- 29-32 First couple dance a half a reel of three with their corners, passing their first corners by the left shoulder to commence.
- 33-40 Six hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.
- 41-44 All three couples advance and retire.
- 45-48 First couple turn with the right hand one and a half times to finish in second place on own side of the set.

Repeat from second place, on the last four bars of the repeat cross over giving right hand and cast to the foot of the set.

Recommended tune: Lady Charlotte Campbell's Medley

Lady Eliza Lindsay

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

- 1-8 First couple cross over giving right hand and cast off into second place, second couple step up on bars 3 & 4; first couple lead down between third couple cross back to own side and cast up into second place, on bar 8 first and third couples meet partner in the middle to face the top with a promenade hold.
- 9-16 First couple followed by third couple dance up the middle cast off behind second man; cross over to the ladies' side, cast up behind second lady and dance down the middle; both couples cross back to own side giving left hand, first couple casting up to finish facing their first corners whilst third couple dance out to place.
- 17-24 First couple turn their first corners with the right hand, partner with the left hand; second corners with the right hand and partner with the left hand to finish facing their first corners.
- 25-30 First couple dance a reel of three on opposite side passing first corners by the left shoulder to start.
- 31-32 First couple cross back to own side giving right hand in passing.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Lady Eliza Lindsay

Ladie Nellie Wemys

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

- 1-2 First couple cross over to second place on opposite side, whilst second couple cast up into first place.
- 3-4 First man and second lady change places with the left hand, whilst first lady and second man change places with the right hand.
- 5-8 First, second and third couples dance a half a reel of three, first couple dance in and down to start.
- 9-10 First couple cross into second place on own side, whilst second couple cast off into third place.
- 11-12 First and second men change place with the left hand whilst first and second ladies change places with the right hand.
- 13-16 First, second and third couples dance a half a reel of three, first couple dance in and up to start.
- 17-20 First couple cross over giving right hand and cast off into second place, second couple step up.
- 21-24 First couple turn with the left hand and then turn first corner with the right hand.
- 25-32 First couple dance a reel of four with their first corners.
- 33-36 First man casts up behind second lady to finish between second couple whilst first lady casts off behind third man to finish between third couple.
- 37-40 First couple turn with the left hand and then turn second corner with the right hand.
- 41-48 First couple dance a reel of four with their second corners to finish in second place on own side.

Repeat from second place.

Recommended tune: Ladie Nellie Wemys