

THE LASS OF RICHMOND HILL

A good morris tune invites one to dance and is suggestive of possible steppings. During one of Hammersmith's creative periods a adnce was produced to the tune Lass of Richmond Hill, a natural choice with a Richmond Hill just over the river. A new progressive 2 by 2 pattern was produced to fit the tune's distinctive 3 part format and it became one of the few new dances to be widely copied. Some clubs adapted it to other traditions and in doing so rethought the stepping. Here are some examples of choruses.

HAMMERSMITH - the original with Longborough figures including rounds. As seen in 1972.

1st Chorus Bars 1-4 1st pair only - css(rt), 4-step, galley left full turn moving out a yard.

5-8 2nd pair only - ditto

9-12 3rd pair only - css(rt), 4-step, css(lt), ft.j to face up, in middle of the set at the bottom, side by side.

13-16 1st & 2nd pairs - long open sidestep down the set, moving down one place, galley out downwards.

3rd pair - 2 4-steps up middle and galley out into top place.

2nd Chorus as 1st chorus but bottom pair come up middle on 2 furies.

3rd, 4th and 5th chorus are similar but bars 13-14 are at slow time for slow capers.

3rd Chorus bottom pair come up dancing 2 full-capers while the other pairs face front and move sideways with 2 cross steps and ft.j (x. x. ft. j.)

4th Chorus bottom pair come up with 2 upright capers etc.

5th Chorus - all face up for bars 13-16, Top two pairs bend a little and bottom pair leapfrog over to the top, 4 beats per leap, and all 4 plain capers up to end the dance.

GREAT WESTERN - adapted to Fieldtown, using FU, HG, EB only. As seen in 1976.

1st Chorus Bars 1-4 1st pair only - css(lt), css(rt), both galley up, full turn, one side has to fudge, 2nd pair come in with a jump.

5-8 2nd pair only - ditto

9-12 3rd pair only - css(lt), 4-step, css(rt), ft.j to face up the set.

13-16 1st & 2nd pairs long open sidestep down one place and galley down

3rd pair - move to top with css(lt), css(rt), galley out.

2nd Chorus as 1st chorus but bottom pair come up middle on 4 plain capers, LRLR.

3rd Chorus as 1st for bars 1-12 then all face up, top two pairs bend a little, and bottom pair leapfrogs to the top, 2 beats per leap, in bar 13 in slow time, then all backstep and ft.j, in bar 14 in slow time.

All galley out and end facing up in bars 15-16.

BROADWOOD - at a Broadwood MM weekend in 1979 one side danced it thus,

1st Chorus Bars 1-4 1st pair only - css down and then up and galley down

5-8 2nd pair ditto

9-12 3rd pair face across and 4 4-steps, then face up and others face down

13-16 Bottom to top and other 2 pairs down one place on 4 plain capers and all galley out.

Lass of Richmond Hill 2.

2nd and 3rd choruses are similar, except that bars 13-14 are in slow time and all the dancers move using 2 slow capers, the bottom pair to the top up the middle and the other pairs down the side one place.

Broadwood MM danced it much the same but bars 1-4, 5-8 were css down, 4-step and galley up!

VICTORY also dance it in a similar Fieldtown style except that in bars 9-12 the 3rd pair dance as Great Western but using open sidesteps. As seen in 1983.

The MEN OF WIGHT also have this version but the dancing in bars 1-12 is done facing up rather than across the set. The top 2 pairs turn out to move down one place. As seen in 1983.

ALBEMARLE, Charlotteville, USA, dance it in Bledington style. As seen in 1983.

All face up to start the choruses.

1st Chorus Bars 1-4 1st pair only - 2 css and hook out to face up

5-8 2nd pair only - ditto

9-10 3rd pair only 2 css up the middle to the top,

11-12 all hook out and move down a place, ending facing front.

13-16 all face front and sidestep and hook up, ending facing front.

2nd Chorus as 1st but furrries instead of sidesteps throughout.

3rd Chorus - bars 1-2, 5-6, 9-10, 13-14 are played at slow time while the above pattern is repeated dancing rtbs instead of css/furrries.

4th Chorus - bars 1-8 as 3rd chorus but dancing uprights.

9-10 bottom pair leapfrog to top, 4 beats to each leap,

11-12 all hook out but end the two files close together.

13 the evens face to the right away from the set and the odds leapfrog over them and themselves then bend facing to the right

14 evens leapfrog over the odds

15-16 all hook out to place.

End the dance on a whole hey.

WINDSOR, danced in Badby style, seen in 1980 and 1984, similar to Great Western's.

1st Chorus Bars 1-4 1st pair only oss(lt),oss(rt),4-step and leg-across.

5-8 2nd pair only ditto

9-12 3rd pair only ditto, ending facing in & in a little.

13-16 bottom pair long open sidestep to top, rest long open sidestep moving down one place, all a 4-step & leg-across.

2nd Chorus as 1st except that at end of bar 12 the bottom pair turn to face up shoulder to shoulder in middle at bottom of set. Then they dance to the top with 2 furrries while the others open sidestep down.

3rd Chorus as 2nd till end of bar 12. Then all face up, the bottom pair leapfrog up to the top, all one 4-step and leg-across to end.

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