

PRESTON ROYAL

As seen danced by Garstang and others particularly Earlsdon. A dance for 8.

Step : skip

Hands: 2 short sticks held in middle, more or less horizontal, fore and aft.

Order: the dance is structured roughly,

Garstang: Corners Cross, Step-Up, Figure, Step-Up

Earlsdon: Step-Up, Corners Cross, Step-Up, Figure

They only differ in whether the dance starts with a Step-Up or a Corners Cross.

In the times seen Garstang were not consistent in what they dropped from the regular pattern in the second half of the dance.

A specific order was, missing out Corners X in second half,

Corners X, Step-Up, Outsides, Step-Up

Corners X, Step-Up, Into Line & Star, Step-Up

Corners X, Step-Up, Into Line & Turn, Step-Up

Outsides, Step-Up, Corners turn and cast, Step-Up

Progressive Hey, Step-Up, Corners turn and cast, Step-Up, Corners X and END.

1. Step-Up : 1 r 1 kick r / r 1 r together // done twice. All same step.

Move forward and back twice. On the kick, rise on supporting foot but not to leave the ground. On the together, tap the free foot down along side the supporting foot. Earlsdon tap the foot down a little behind.

Both hands up on the first step and not down till the very last step, then smartly down.

2. Corners Cross or Short Corners : in 4's, diagonals cross with skip step. Raise hands only when moving. 1st corners cross in 2 bars, then 2nd in 2 bars, then 1st back in 2 bars and 2nd back in 2 bars. Pass to left - not exactly right shoulders as dancers turn to left so that actually pass back-to-back and continue turning left to face front. Start each change with left foot and end each crossing with feet together.

3. Outsides : cast from top, down outside following top pair, turn in at bottom and come up to place. Skip step and both hands up throughout.

4. Into Line & Star : Walk into line, to the left of opposite, right shoulder to right shoulder, facing alternate directions, with Step-Up stepping and walk back to starting place, ditto. Move forward again with skip step, starting left foot, and dance right and left hand stars in 4's, 4 bars each way. Outside hand up, sticks in middle vertical and together. Walk into line again the other side, to right, left shoulder to left and retire to place with Step-Up stepping. Earlsdon do 2nd  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Step-Up instead, up the set rather than into line again.

5. Into Line & Turn Partner : Walk into line and back, before and after, as in 4. Turn partner by right hand  $\frac{1}{2}$  round into line up and down middle of set, skip step, and come back to place with a left hand turn. Take 2 bars going in and 2 bars coming out of the 8 hopsteps each way. Both hands go up at the start. In Turn cross arms at wrist so that sticks slope up. Hands down at side as change hand for turn back but not feet together at that point. Earlsdon end with half a Step-Up.

6. Corners Turn & Cast Up : All corner turns are with right hand, crossed at wrist, 4 bars each. Garstang turn  $\frac{1}{2}$  round and back to place, Earlsdon do  $1\frac{1}{2}$  turns and back. The order of turns is 1&8, 2&7, 1&6 while 7&8 cast up to top of set, 2&5, 7&4 while 6&5 cast up to top, 8&3, 5&2 while 4&3 cast up to top, 6&1, 3&8 while 1&2 cast up, 4&7. Inactives are stationary, hands at sides. Casts usually take less than 4 bars to complete. Set moves up  $\frac{3}{4}$  places as no one moves down, then all stamp sideways down to original place followed by half a Step-Up.

7. Progressive Hey : from top ; top pair pass by left, starting left foot. Rest stand still, hands at sides until they are brought into the dance. Each passing is one bar of skip step and all are to place in 12 bars. Raise nearest hands in passing, but not held up, just straight up and down. Top pair back to place in 8 bars. When back at place stand still, hands at sides.

All half a step-up with hands down at end of 4 bars.

**PRESTON CARNIVAL**

Source: seen at a fete with Carnival Morris competition in 1968 in Preston. The team was from out of Preston and it was impossible at the time to establish contact.

Team : 16 plus leader and mascot. Usual Carnival dress with short skirts.

Hands : the team used Carnival wavers or double ended "fluffies" or "pom-poms", held in the middle. The hand positions were,

at sides - arm straight down, palms face in, pom-pom fore & aft & horizontal.

on hips - knuckle on hip, palms face out, elbows forward a little, hips interpreted as just behind rather than at side.

straight up - about 60 deg from horizontal, palms face in, pom-pom fore and aft & horizontal

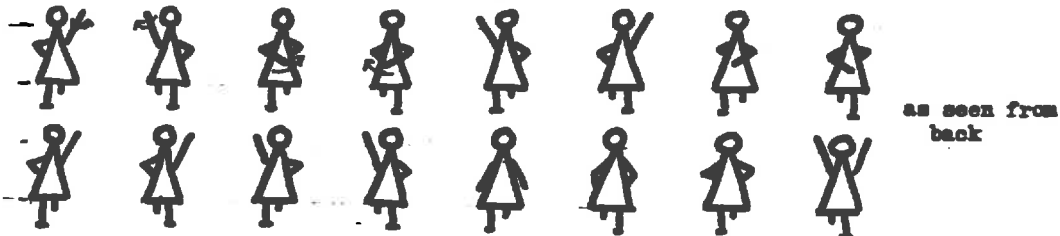
out - up at 45 deg from horizontal, palms face forward, pom-pom at right angles to arm. In turns, knuckle to knuckle, palm turned back 45 deg so that pom-poms fit together at right angles to each other.

If sticks are used then these have to be modified.

Steps : travelling - hopstep, knee up, thigh horizontal, lower leg vertical not kicked forward at all and held a little while during the hop to give hesitation effect,

stationary - 1, 2, 3. Weight on the foot doing the 1 & 3, tap the other foot down a little ahead of supporting foot on the 2 - not crossed, just straight ahead. No sway of body or movement side to side in a series of steps. Spring (2) to next step.

CHORUS: before each figure. Dance on spot for 16 bars using stationary step and doing the following arm movement sequence. Start on left foot.



as seen from back

Each figure represents one bar. Twist right hand clockwise, left anticlock, then swing the arms across the body, right in front, left behind and then the reverse. Repeat with reverse movements. Then two twists of each arm, bring arms down to sides & slowly lift to high up both over last 4 bars.

**FIGURES:**

1. Cross-Over : Opposites cross over, passing right shoulders & turn right to face back. Return to place by right again etc. 16 bars. Left hand out and shaking, right on hip.
2. Small-Cross: In 4's, right hand star 8 bars round once, turn in and 8 bars back with left hand in. Outside arm down and out at 45 deg.
3. Big-Cross : Centre 4 form a right hand star and pick up the nearest corner to make a double star and go once round in 8 bars, all turn in on spot and left hand star back. All arms up, knuckles touching between pairs and all outside arms up.



4. Small-Chain: In 4's, right and left through, cross first with partner passing right shoulders, left arm out & right on hip, pass along the sides left shoulder & other hands etc, round to place. Do twice through. 2 bars for each side of square, 16 in all.
5. Big-Chain : 1&2, 3&5, 4&6, 7&8 face and grand chain around to place in 16 bars, 2 bars for each passing.
6. Small-Arches: In 4's, face up throughout, 1st pair make arch with inside arms out, outside arm on hips and dance backwards for 4 bars, while 2nd pair come up middle, hands at sides, rather close, shoulder to shoulder. Then 1st come up between 2nds and repeating to fill 16 bars - 8 times round.
7. Big-Arches : Ordinary cast out from top and top pair lead rest to bottom, outside arm out, inside on hip, turn in at bottom and same inside arm makes arch & come up the middle. When the top pair reaches the top they turn in & shoulder to shoulder with arms at side, go down under the arches coming up and lead set off the dance area.

Sides doing this develop a jaunty step in chorus & a marked move from side to side. It has become usual to use two sticks, to pass with inside arm up, to keep inside sticks crossed in small arch & make a steady swing over and under, 2 bars to a change, 4 times round.

PRESTON ROAD DANCE - used by Garstang

Music: Cock O'North

Sticks: held at bottom ends.

Formation: seen with 8 and 12. Danced in 4's. With 12 middle 4 may do something different.

Processional: hopstep with raised knees, sticks held vertically or at sides horizontal.

Both sticks up 2 bars, down 2 bars ad lib. Out at sides first. Figs at conductor's whim.

1. 3 steps to centre & kick facing alternate ways in one line, and step back to place and face back down street. 4 step hops with a significant element of kick facing down on the spot, turn out & ditto facing up.

2. Cross over ; 4 bars across and 4 bars back either by right and turn right or opposite.

3. Top 4 turn partners to change sides; Centre 4 do a sort of right and left through with turns on the side, both facing different ways in the turn. Cross over, passing right shoulders, in 2 bars; turn to face alternate direction, in 2 bars, nos 1,4 in the 4 turn right to face in, 2&3 stay facing out; turn half way round in 2 bars giving left hand, so that again facing in and out but changed; 2 bars wait or the ones facing out turn anticlockwise on spot to face front.

Repeat to place immediately or later.

4. Stars in 4's. Outside stick up vertically & high out. Centre sticks vertical in a bunch at shoulder level. Turn out at half way taking 1 bar. Odd side turn tp to face up at end.

Procession ends on figure 2.