

## STALYBRIDGE

Source: Bernard Bentley in 1950's.

Entrance: Walking step. Ticklers horizontal in front of body and across body. Then moved in a circular movement round each other, a winding motion, right hand comes in and down as right foot moves forward.

Fall-Back: used as an introduction to every figure. Uses walking step. <sup>Facing up</sup> 4 steps back starting inside foot (right foot for left file) then 3 steps forward and drop onto outside foot (left foot for left file) and sharply kick inside foot backwards. Arms at head level and swing both in front of head on the "drop" otherwise as in "entrance". Repeat. (8 bars)

### Figures:

1. "Setting to Partners" - face partner opposite.

Bar 1: set to left. Right foot swung in and across while arms swing in and out. Supporting foot drawn back on the hop a little.

Bar 2: set to right similarly.

Bar 3: turn to right with 4 steps - l,r,l,r (double speed) all way round

Bar 4: two steps facing - l,r. (normal speed)

Bars 5-6: repeat setting to left and right.

Bar 7: turn round to right with 3 quick steps - l,r,l.

Bar 8: step on right then drop onto left, kicking right back sharply. Other file reverse feet and turns.

2. "All Across" - cross with partner using skip step. Hands well out and swung inwards to meet in front of body. Cross back, then repeat all.

Presumably pass left shoulders each time and turns to left. (16 bars)

3. "Ones and Threes" - in 4's, diagonals cross. First corners cross and come back with skip steps, hands going in and out. Then second corners cross and come back. Paths nearly semicircular. Waiting dancers mark time and swing arms in and out quietly. Presumably pass left shoulders. (16 bars)

4. "Circle" - in 4's, hands across. Skip 8 bars round right and 8 bars back to left.

5. to 8. - as 1. to 4.

9. "Tickle-ears" - dance about anywhere - eg skip a whole gypsy, hands in and out. (16 bars)

10. "Dance Off" - as Entrance - top cast in and lead down centre of set.

Tickler is something between a stick and a sling

**STALWIDGE (GIRLS) MORRIS**

Source: as danced by John O'Gaunt at Thaxted, 1977 and Master tour 1978. Derived from a girls' dance.

Music : played rather slowly, J O'G used "Fertsmouth"

Step : walk and a walk with a scuff. Usually two steps to a bar.

Formation : seen danced by 10 with two centres. Two short sticks with ribbons at top.

02FS: stationary, facing up, hands at sides.

**Step-Back:** all start right foot, hands at sides.

Walk backwards r,l,r,l then forwards r,l,r, spring onto l. At the half way point the feet are apart right in front of left and they are not brought together. On the spring at the end the free leg, the right, is swung up in front & both hands are swung up high.

This is repeated and all turn to face in after the spring. Note no hands except the spring. The centres join in the Step-Back and the Step-&Turn.

**Step-&Turn:** All face in and do two change steps, right foot down, swinging left across and left foot down, swinging right across, at the same speed as the walk in Step-Back. It is rather like stepping onto the other foot and like a caper. All turn clockwise on the spot with 6 walking steps, marking time. There are no hand movements in the first bar for the change steps then swing both arms, kept straight, in a circle anticlock looking forwards as a dancer. Repeat with same footing and turn. Hands in turn are kept at same level throughout and the sticks kept parallel.

**Cross-&Back:** Walk with scuff step to opposite side of set, 8 steps and a spring on the last. Hands at sides & up to in front of head, above head level, sticks vertical on the spring. First time pass left shoulders and retire on same path, in repeat pass right shoulders and retire same path. JO'G insist that NW rule is left shoulders then right. No scuff when retiring but distinct tap down.

**Step-Back, Step-&Turn.**

**Long Corners:** the extreme corners of the set, first corners starting, go forward to meet left shoulder to left shoulder, with 7 scuff steps and a spring, retire to place on the same track with 7 ordinary steps and a spring. Arms as before. Centres same stepping. 2nd long corner then does the same. The rest mark time for 8 steps, swinging both arms, hands same height etc once round clockwise, then all turn clockwise on spot with arms going once round anticlock as in Step-&Turn. Repeat facing front and turning anticlock.

**Step-Back, Step-&Turn.**

**Short Corners:** exactly as Long Corners except that the movement in the middle is done by the first then the second corner of the top 4 and the bottom 4.

**Step-Back, Step-&Turn.**

**Middle Corners:** exactly as Long Corners except that the movement involves the dancers next to the ends.



In various performances J O'G have not been consistent and have made mistakes over order and who involved. The above is believed to be correct.

**Step-Back, Step-&Turn.**

**Cross-Morris:** danced slowly, half speed music, and half speed stepping - like slow march, step and pause but not feet together at any time.

Cross Over to other side, passing left shoulders in 4 steps, start right foot, and swing leg and hands up on the 4th without a hop. Retire on same path to place ditto.

On the spot do 4 slow steps facing forward and do one circle with both arms clockwise, then all turn on spot clockwise one turn on 4 slow steps but this time doing one circle of both arms per step, anticlock. End face up with arms at sides.