

HAYFIELD

Source: collected by Howison from 8 persons over period 1958-61. A processional morris from Derbyshire that originally went with a Rush Cart during Wakes. The following is based on mss and the teaching of D Robinson at Barnstaple March 1977. There were two teams, the first ran from 1890 to WW I. After the War members of the old team trained a boys team.

Music: Long Morris, Girl I Left Behind Me, 100 Pipers, Bonnie Dundee, 95th Cock of the North, Gary Owen, "My Love, My Love", St. Patricks Day or any other jig. Different tunes were used for different parts of the dance.

Set: Originally 16, sometimes 12, dance mostly structured in 4's.

Hands: each dancer has a form of tiddler in each hand - called a "tassel" - 10 in long, made of corks bored through the middle and strung together, covered with cloth and decorated with spiral red, white & blue ribbons. Bottom end a wrist loop, other end 3 balls and ribbons

Stepping: a lilting walk, sidesteps, skip step. Can use a hopstep instead of walks in jigs.

Figures: the names given to the figures in the notation, like most NW dances, are not traditional, if they ever had names. Each figure was danced repeatedly until the captain signaled to go onto another. The processional movement was inserted between figures at the discretion of the Captain.

O2YS: When dancing in a stationary position rather than in a street procession, the dance is started by standing back-to-back with opposite forming 2 lines down the centre of the set, facing out to own place. On a chord from the music, all take 2 paces out to position and face up. Before moving out the hands are crossed in front of the body at waist level. On the two steps the hands are raised to head level, one on each side.

CHORUS: Step-Up - walk forward and back & kick-up (spring), 8 steps each way and start left each half. The spring is from the left to the right between beats 7 & 8. The hands are large inward circles of alternate hands in front of body, at waist level, and slightly in toward it, bringing the left across first. Throw up both arms on the spring, above head level. If turn to face opposite after the spring, bring arms out.

Step-& Turn - polka rhythm - face partner and dance two closed sidesteps, not a polka, starting right foot over left, r, l, r -, with the weight transferred between steps. To get onto the right after the spring it is necessary to insert a quick fudge step on the left foot. The arms are crossed and uncrossed in front of the body right arm on top and then left arm on top, about waist level. All turn on spot upwards once round in 4 steps, the free foot being lifted up and slightly back on the first 3 steps and end with the free leg cocked up in front. Throw up the arms head high on this turn on the spot, hands not waved, but straight up. Repeat the two sidesteps and then complete turn on spot downwards. Main source says do the repeat with opposite feet and hands, another start right foot each bit again. While dancing this figure they sing, "Cheese and bread and on old cow's head, & a pudding baked in a lantern, A bit for thee & a bit for me, & a bit for the Morris Dancers."

Processional: 1) Step-up & keep going forward for 2nd half

2) cross over with opposite, passing right shoulders with 8 steps including spring as in Step-Up, face up. Walk forward as first part Step-Up on wrong side of set. Cross back to own side, passing right again, and walk backwards to starting place. (forwards on the road). As a figure in the dance some informants had the Step-Up before the cross.

Figures: some are versions of same thing as altered over the years.

1. In 4's corners cross. 2nd corner sidestep twice while 1st corner crosses by the right using hopstep. Then 1st corner sidesteps on spot facing opposite while 2nd corner cross. Repeat to place. Could make each part twice as long as 4 sidesteps, or insert turns on spot alternately up and down, each with 4 walking steps as described above, hand above head level (as in the crossing)
2. In 4's, right and left hand stars with walking step & waving free hand. 8 steps each way. Turn in half way. First corners hold their hands over the 2nds both times.
3. Face partner, mark time for 8 bars and then forward & back to opposite twice, 8 bars.
4. In 4's, skipping. Cross with partner by right and left hand star in 4s once round. Cross back with partner and right hand star round to place.
5. In 4's, skip back-to-back with opposite then 2nd corners cross and 1st corners cross. Back-to-back & corners cross back to place.
6. Last figure: cross with partner with hopstep, raising free foot in front on each step. Turn right and cross back passing right shoulders again & turn right to face front. Hands across in 4's and back, then forward & back towards partner twice.