

WHITWORTH

BONNETS SO BLUE (North of Rochdale - Whitworth?)

As taught by Roy Dommett at a Sidmouth Festival Workshop 1982.

Music: Bonnets so Blue AABA (an ABC tune?)
Set: 8 or 16 longways (Number of steps given are for 8 dancers.)
Step: NW polka (sometimes called a rant) 1 step per bar of music.
Implements: garlands

CAST OUT.

Top couples cast out for 8 steps to bottom couples place, meanwhile the rest of the set dance on the spot then move up one position during the last 2 steps. The rest of the set casts out one pair at a time in the same way dancing 8 steps (the casting couple) or 6 stationary steps and 2 moving steps (other dancers).

STAR.

Right-hand star (8 steps) then turn in and dance a left-hand star (8 steps).

CROSS OVER.

Face across the set and dance 4 steps across, passing right shoulders with partner, then face up to dance 4 steps in position. Turn across set again and dance 4 steps to place again passing right shoulders with partner, turn up and dance a further 4 steps.

ARBRE.

The corners of set dance into the centre taking 4 steps and facing diagonal with garlands up. Turn round once with 8 steps. Still facing in dance backwards out to place with garlands held down (beneath chin). The other dancers step on the spot with garlands down.

CIRCULAR HEY (Grand Chain).

Face in pairs to make a square set.
Top and bottom pair face partner, -
middles face adjacent dancer.

Pass right shoulders then left alternately while stepping around the circle. Use 2 steps to pass each oncoming person and when halfway round circle turn twice with partner. This half-figure uses 8 steps. Continue round circle to place turning twice with partner when in position (8 steps).

BOTTOMS CAST (Bottom Up)

Similar to 'Cast Out'. The bottom pair cast up the middle of the set (8 steps) to top position while the rest of the set dances on the spot for 6 steps then moves down one position in the last 2 steps. The whole set casts out in pairs in this manner.

TOPS CAST (Cast).

Top pair lead the cast out and all dance up the middle of set in single file (8 steps) dance 4 steps forward and bow (face the audience - in the single file dancers can alternately turn left and right or all one way, the direction of movement is away from the midline of the set) then 4 steps backwards (into single file again) and bow.

WHITWORTH PROCESSIONAL

Longways set walking along street with garlands. Top pair move outwards & polka step moving forwards at slower pace than the walkers, so that set passes them. Fall into set at back and revert to walk as new top pair break out.