

## THE HOP WAIN

Steps : balance step, a pas de basque with forward foot crossing over and a marked sway of the body the other way. Skipping.

Tune : a 4 part Flemish tune used by Knots of May (Brighton)

Source : a Flemish girls team at Sidmouth, with additions as explained by their leader, as interpreted by Knots of May and improved by the team at Charlotteville, North Carolina, USA, with changes arising in practices.

Title : The formation is supposed to look like a covered wagon or "wain". Such were used around Alton for transporting hops to the brewery.

Formation : 14 dancers with one garland between two dancers, the dancers in two files facing up at the start with the handles in their inside hands.

FIRST STEPPING : pas de basque for 8 bars facing up, on the spot, to the right first.

TUNNEL : Top pair turn in, still holding handles with same hands so that now inside and under the garland, and skip under the other garlands to the bottom of the set. In skipping under lower own garland a little so that it does go under. At the bottom both turn out, <sup>going forward</sup> to face up so that still holding handle in same hand and now outside the garland again at back of files. Files move up one place every 2 bars (4 skips) and next pair goes under every 2 bars. (music BC)

FIRST STEPPING repeated :

DIP AND DIVE : This movement starts progressively from the top and continues till the end of the phrase after the bottom pair have returned to their place. In the first 2 bars (4 skips) the top pair raise their garland and dance backwards past the second pair, going outside them and passing their garland over the second's garland. In the second 2 bars (4 skips) they turn in to be under and between the handles of their garland facing down, and, lowering their garland, so that it passes under the next garland, skip down one place where they again turn backwards to face up. This alternate going over and under is repeated till they reach the bottom of the set. The pairs coming up the set, moving up every 2 bars one place, face up through out, not turning up and down as the pairs going down, but just raising the garlands or lowering them as appropriate as they skip to the top. As each pair reaches the top they join in the over and under movements, each new pair coming in every 4th bar. Because of the length of the set and the progressive finish it seems to take a long time before the last pair is finally at place. (music BCDD - note all 4 parts of tune played straight through and then repeat last phrase ad lib)

SECOND STEPPING : the pas de basques are used to move the pairs sideways, alternately, so that the set is staggered, first pair to the left (facing up) 2nd to the right, third to the left etc so that the dancers now on the inside of the arches are in fact in single file down the centre of the set.

ARCHES : All skip. The top pair rotate about the inner dancer to face down on the

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other side (2 bars) As they rotate they move from outside the garland to inside changing hands holding the garlands. They dance down under the 3 garlands facing them and at the bottom of that column turn out from under the garland to face up behind that column, not the one they started on, thus they end up on the wrong side and reversed. (2 bars). All the others move up one place during this move. Each new top pair does this in turn going obviously alternately to right or left. (music BCDD)

THIRD STEPPING : Each pair does the 8 pas de basque moving forward and rotating as a pair to make a circle with all dancers facing out.

RUNNING RING : Working in pairs the dancers move clockwise round the circle, facing out throughout. The left hand of each pair skips across in front of the right hand dancer, who skips on the spot, to end on the other side of that dancer in the gap vacated by the left hand of the next pair to the right. The moving dancer goes across in front of the other, both facing out throughout, and does not move out wide, the garland not being stretched out. Each change takes 2 bars (4 skips). The moves by the current left hand dancer are done for 16 bars - so that each dancer moves 4 times (music BC). Maintaining a good circle is difficult.

DOUBLE STAR : on the last change the moving dancer continues into the centre of the set and forms a right hand star with all the others. Each centre dancer grasps the right wrist of the dancer in front of them, to form a "Texas" star. The double star dances round with skip step for 8 bars and then stops with the end of music and everyone stands still, facing round clockwise, and the hands in the centre drop to sides. (music D).

LEAD OFF : When the music starts again (music D) the original top pair leads off under the arches in front of them, all the way round till they reach the gap that they made by moving off and lead off through that gap. As they go under the first arch it follows them and each arch joins in going under the tunnel when all the others have passed through.

