

Cleveland 14.

FIGURE FOUR

Opening, sheet 4(16 bars)Open Ring(8 bars)Advance & Retire, 2 jumps(8 bars)Open Ring(8 bars)Advance & Retire, 5 jumps(8 bars)Open Ring(8 bars)Advance & Retire, 3 jumps(8 bars)Open Ring(8 bars)Advance & Retire, 6 jumps(8 bars)Low Basket(8 bars)Low Clash(3 bars)Back Lock(8 bars) Rose(8 bars)Draw(8 bars).

LOFTUS

"In the present revival of sword dancing we have tried to recapture the spirit and enthusiasm of these pioneers. The figures of our dance have been decided upon after talks we have had with the survivors of the old dance teams, and if there is any similarity between our dance and the other named Cleveland dances this is natural in view of the history of these dances.

The present (1953) Loftus Sword Dance Team was started at the County Modern School in 1950 and since the spring of 1951 we have been fortunate in having the advice and help as musician of Mr. Arthur Marshall of Charlton, who has a national reputation as a player of sword dance music. He first became interested in playing the ueldeon with the North Shelton team in the early 1920's. The first public dancing done by the new Loftus team was in connection with the Festival of Britain ceremonies in the town in 1951 and since then the team has an unbroken sequence of successes at folk dancing competitions at Newcastle, Darlington, York and Whitby. At Easter 1952 they danced at the Easter Conference of the S.D.S.S. at Scarborough by invitation... since then the team has performed at festivals at Newcastle, Cramlington, London, Harrogate and elsewhere.... It competed in 1953 at Liangollen."

Music - very fast - too fast for "Wester Girl" only - 24 bars in 20 secs or dotted crotchet = 144.

Dance exists in three forms

1. old form as taught at the school - full set of repeats - eg. everyone did over own swords, double under done all round set, etc.
2. figures were shortened by eliminating some of the repetition.
3. 2 or 3 years ago figures further shortened & amalgamated for competition purposes - particularly at Liangollen. This is now the usual form used at public display. It was interesting that at Sidmouth we saw a team with a reserve in it who did not really know all the figures of the old dance even though they are built into the sequence he was doing.

The following is a description of form 2.

FIGURE ONE

Low Salute, High Clash(8 bars)Shoulders(16 bars)Open Ring(8 bars)Over Own Sword(24 bars)Low Basket(8 bars)Low Clash(8 bars)Open Ring(8 bars)Right and Left Lock(8 bars)Rose(8 bars)Draw(16 bars)

Over Own Sword - done in bars by 1, 3 & 5 only, set circles at same rate throughout. Dancer does complete clockwise turn in 4 steps, turning under neighbour's sword, wrist over head, other sword not moved. Then bend down, hands crossed left over right & hopping, step over own sword going from inside to out.

FIGURE TWO

Low Salute, High Clash(8 bars)Shoulders(16 bars)Open Ring(8 bars)Over Own Sword(24 bars)Hey(8 bars)Roll(24 bars)Boussette(16 bars)One roll & Low Basket(8 bars)One clash & Open Ring(8 bars)Lock(3 bars) Rose(8 bars) Draw(16 bars).

Over Own Sword - might be done differently - done by 2, 4, 6 only.
Hey - 1 or 3 along sides All heys should be done the same way but often not lined up, should be same way as Windows. Top 2 couples pass by right to start with & bottom couple come in progressively. End facing partner & grasp both swords ready for next movement.

FIGURE THREE (2 mins)

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Low Salute, High Clash (3 bars) Inside shoulders & outside elbows (16 bars) Open Ring (3 bars) Over Own Sword (24 bars) Double Under 4&5 arch (8 bars) Double Under 1&2 arch (3 bars) Open Ring (3 bars) Double Over, 4&5 down (8 bars) Open Ring (8 bars) Double Over, 1&2 down (8 bars) Open Ring (3 bars) Right & Left Lock (2 bars) Rose (3 bars) Draw (16 bars)

Over Own Sword - done by 1, 3, 5 only in turn - 1/2 turn clockwise under swords then cross sword, right foot over first, while making 2nd 1/2 turn. Open ring 4 bars.

FIGURE FOUR (2 min 25 sec)

Low Salute, High Clash (3 bars) Open Ring (3 bars) Over Neighbour's Sword (24 bars) Hey (3 bars) Windows (54 bars) One roll & low basket (3 bars) one clash & open ring (3 bars) One at a Time Lock (16 bars) Rose (3 bars) Draw (16 bars)

Over Neighbour's Sword - done by 2, 4, 6 only, in turn - 1/2 turn clockwise first then cross sword, right foot over first, crossing while going backwards inside to out

FIGURE FIVE (2 min 40 sec)

Low Salute, High basket anticlock (3 bars) High Basket clockwise (8 bars) High Clash (3 bars) Open Ring (3 bars) One Lead Over by 1 (16 bars) Open Ring (8 bars) One lead Over by 4 (16 bars) Open Ring (8 bars) Hey (8 bars) Arches (40 bars) Open Ring (3 bars) Low Basket (3 bars) Low Clash (3 bars) Back Lock (3 bars) Rose (3 bars) Draw (16 bars)

FIGURE SIX (2 min 10 sec)

Low Salute, High Clash (3 bars) Open Ring (3 bars) Advance & Retire Over Swords, 1&6 jump (3 bars) Open Ring (3 bars) Advance & Retire Over Swords, 4&3 jump (3 bars) Open Ring (8 bars) Circular Hey (16 bars) Into Line (3 bars) Open Ring (8 bars) Advance & Retire Over Swords (8 bars) Open Ring (3 bars) Advance & Retire Over Swords (8 bars) Open Ring (8 bars) Clockwise Turn Lock (16 bars) Rose (3 bars) Draw (16 bars)

Into Line - form up into 2 lines facing, swords sloped over right shoulders. Lines move forward to stand right shoulder to right shoulder with partner in one line (2 bars forward, 2 marking time, 2 falling back, 2 marking time)

Entry - 1. Walk on in column, each file casts out & back to form a circle. Dancers face centre with sword still sloped over shoulder and mark time. At end of phrase all turn to face clockwise & bring point of sword down for low salute, then up for High Clash, start moving off on left foot.
2. Walk on in single file & cast alternately into circle & mark time with swords down in middle.

General - springy walk - in Open Ring, hand about 18" from body, comfortably outstretched - In Shoulders the outside, left, arm is up, entirely at shoulder level, horizontal & comfortably curved. - in Outside Elbow the circle is still the same size as for Shoulders.

EXHIBITION SEQUENCE ONE (3 min) based on figs 2 & 3.

Low Salute, High Clash (3 bars) Shoulders (16 bars) Open Ring (3 bars) Over Own Sword, 1, 3, 5 (24 bars) Hey (3 bars) Roll (24 bars) Pousette (16 bars) One roll & Low Basket (8 bars) One Low Clash & Open Ring (8 bars) Double Under, 4&5 arch (8 bars) Double Under 1&2 arch (3 bars) Open Ring (8 bars) Double Over, 4&5 down (3 bars) Open Ring (8 bars) Double Over, 1&2 down (8 bars) Open Ring (3 bars) Lock (8 bars) Rose (8 bars) Draw (16 bars).

EXHIBITION SEQUENCE TWO (3 min 30 sec) based on figs 3, 4, 5.

Low Salute, High Clash (3 bars) Open Ring (3 bars) Advance & Retire Over Swords, 1&6 jump (3 bars) Open Ring (3 bars) Advance & Retire Over Swords, 4&3 jump (3 bars) Open Ring (8 bars) Hey (3 bars) Windows (48 bars - 2nd couple do not do cast round)

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One roll & Low Basket(8 bars)One Clash & Open Ring(8 bars)
One Lead Over by 1(16 bars)Open Ring(8 bars)One Lead Over by
4(16 bars)Open Ring(8 bars)Hey(8 bars)Arches(24 bars - only 2nd
couple go round)Open Ring(8 bars)Low Basket(8 bars)One Clash
& Back Lock(8 bars)Rose(8 bars)Draw(16 bars) or Lead Off with
the Rose.

LINGDALE

FIGURE A

High Clash(8 bars)Shoulders(16 bars)Open Ring(8 bars)Over
Own Sword(24 to 36 bars)Open Ring() Double Under Twice(16 bars)
Double Over Twice(16 bars)Open Ring()Right & Left Lock(8 bars)
Rose(8 bars) Draw(16 bars).

Over Own Sword - keep facing way circling, lower own sword(2 bars)
Hopping, step over it from outside to inside(2 bars) turn
anticlockwise under neighbour's sword (2 bars). It is difficult
to be sure of the phrasing. When lowering sword, the man at the
other end bends to keep it horizontal.
Double Under & Over, 4&5 sword up or down 1st, then 1&2.

FIGURE B

High Clash(8 bars)Shoulders(16 bars)Open Ring(8 bars)Over
Sword(8) open Ring & form column(8 bars)Mark time 1(8 bars)
Hey(8 bars)Mark Time 2(8 bars)Poussette(16 bars) Roll(24 bars)
Open Ring(8 bars)Right & Left Lock(8 bars)Rose(8 bars)Draw.

Over Own Sword - ½ turn clockwise to face backwards under neighbours
sword(2 bars)Hopping, step over sword, right foot over 1st,
neighbour's sword still over head(2 bars) get straight(2 bars)
Mark Time 1 - bottom couple face up, rest facedown swords sloped.
Mark Time 2 - face partner, swords sloped, then at end link both
swords and anticipate poussette slightly.

FIGURE C

High Basket anticlockwise(8 bars)High Basket Clockwise(8 bars)
Arches(sheet 9)Open Ring(8 bars)One Lead Over(16 bars)Open Ring
(8 bars) One Lead Over & Open Ring a few more times, then Lock
etc.

General - at end sometimes the men all take a ½ turn anticlock
to face out and bow to the audience

SKELTON

The dance at Skelton was for 8 men and the following is from
Sharp.

FIGURE ONE

Clash
Walk round with sword on inside shoulder, right.
Walk round with sword on outside, left.
Double Under, Captain goes through first with man on his right.
Double Over
Once round hilt and point, 8 bars
Over your own sword, Captain beginning
Open Ring
Clash
Back Lock, Captain exhibits & you walk round or if fool is there
lock placed over shoulders.
Walk round and draw as at Sleights.
Each man places left hand on partner's shoulder in Rose.

FIGURE TWO

Clash at bottom
Hilt and point
Sword over shoulder, face in 2 lines 1234 v 5678
Files pass through 8 steps, turn round and return, 8 bars
Whole Hey, back to places, 8 bars
Ring Round, 8 bars.
Each man turns round counterclockwise then jumps over his sword
moving round each man doing it in turn.
Sleights Roll, twisting at bottom then round 8 bars.