

THREE FROM THE SOUTH

1. HASTE TO THE WEDDING (Wilts - Pat Shaw?)

Music

Form: Long set of three couples

A1. Lines of 3, forward & back then cross over to opposite places.

A2. Repeat to place.

B1.9 1st 3 3rd couple dance right hands across & back with the left while the 2nd couple cast up to the top of the set.

B2. All join hands & circle 6 hands all the way round to the left.

In successive repeats the middles cast alternately to bottom & top.
(as collected the circle was to left and right & there was no cast of the middles)

2. RUSSIAN BALLET (Aldershot Area)

Music

Form Trios of a man with a woman on either side, all facing round balroom direction.

A1. Join inside hands & march forward 8 steps.

A2. Man bows to right hand partner & then to left hand partner who curtsy in turn.

B1. Double arches - man joins inside hands again, raises right to form an arch with right hand partner. The left hand partner goes through & turns behind man

back to her place, the man & the right hand partner then turn inwards under their arch. Repeat with left hand arch.

B2. Man kisses his right hand partner then his left hand partner. The man only then does 4 high kicks facing forward on the spot. He walks forward to stand between the next pair of women.

Another variant of the dance published in CDM 3 & "Folk" No. 3.
Popular in the Aldershot area with or without the swinging because of the missing - an essential feature of what is now a traditional dance so far ignored.

3. UP THE SIDES & DOWN THE MIDDLE

Version 1. (Wilts)

Music

Form: Long set of four couples.

A1. Lines of 4 balance right & left twice (cross feet) & then cross over to opposite places & turn to face.

A2. Repeat to place.

B1. Top couple swings slowly down centre to bottom & there make an arch while rest of set single cast down clapping.

B2. Couples lead up through arch & all swing.

Version 2. (Beaminster, Dorset - Dr. Schofield)

Music - the tune in 6/8

Form: Long set for as many as will.

A1. 1st couple leads down the middle followed by the rest in pairs and all single cast up the sides to places (man turns towards woman at bottom before casting)

A2. Repeat with stepping.

B1. 1-4 Partners line up
5-8 Foot - it.

B2. 1-4 Partners cross over & change places.
5-8 Foot-it.

Repeat all that on opposite sides - ad lib.

Every village seemed to have its own way of doing this simple dance, usually non-progressive.