

LICHFIELD DANCES FOR FLEET

BACKGROUND

Source : "mss" probably composed in the 1940's or 50's from the paper watermark's date. Interpreted well by Green Man, Stafford and Lichfield and derivative sides such as Kennett and King John.

Dances : several exist appearing in pairs of a stick and a handkerchief dance, each pair with somewhat different figures.

Need : a contrast to Adderbury, Bampton and Ducklington, especially in the stick dances, where a diet of just Adderbury is boring. But a "tradition" with movements in common and not a set of individual dances.

Requirement : dances for eight with a consistent standard set of five figures and four choruses using sticks, with figures that look significantly different from the other traditions that we do. The choices have to produce tidy dances that minimise known club faults.

Steps : double steps, backsteps and open sidesteps.

FIGURES

Once-to-Yourself : stand in a circle facing the centre of the set. End with a jump to face around the circle, odds clockwise, evens anticlockwise.

Swagger-Round : dance around in the direction now facing until back in place, the middles spiralling in to form two equally spaced columns facing across the set for the first chorus. Odds pass outside at the top, by right shoulders and inside at the bottom, by left shoulders.

Heading-Up : all face up, working in fours, the rear pair dance up in two bars to be in a line between the top pair who move sideways so that the set is now as wide as it was long. Dance on the spot for four bars, with two double steps and two open sidesteps (as in *Vandalls* chorus) and then backstep to place, ending with facing across the set.

Cross-Over : all dance across the set in two bars, passing their opposite dancer by right shoulders, to end in two lines facing out away from the set. Turn to the right, dancing on the spot, to face back in the next two bars. Repeat to places.

Doubling-Up : top pairs face down, bottom pairs face up to start. This is back-to-back along the side of the set, working in pairs. For example, Nos 1 and 3, keeping their relative position, dance a back-to-back down the set with Nos 5 and 7 who also move up the set, nos 1 and 7 actually passing back-to-back. They then retire backwards towards their places, but only so far that they form two lines of four across the set, 1 5 2 6 and 3 7 4 8. Repeat to place retracing the same path.

Lichfield Hey : a large movement, taking 16 bars to complete and normally to an A+B music, with the call, "*first corners cross, second corners cross, pause and change*", done four times until back to place. The first two crossings are done in succession, working in units of four, passing right shoulders, those on the "first" diagonal going first, the pause is a double step danced on the current spot, and the change is now done passing left shoulders by the pairs currently at the ends and along the sides in the middle. End by facing up with a jump. There may be dances which do not use or end on the hey.

DANCE CHORUSES TO TRY

Start facing across the set within stick reach of opposite dancer.

Windmill (Basque chorus). Single long stick, double hold.

Strike : partner tip and butts, neighbour tip and butts, partner tip, diagonal to right tip, neighbour tip and new opposite's tip. Repeat three more times to get to place. The diagonal strike is made while passing left shoulders with the opposite, and continue on a quarter circular path to end with lines of four at right angles to start.

Postman's Knock (or other Adderbury stick dance chorus). Single long stick.

TBD.

Vandals (original chorus). Single long stick, double hold.

Strike : diagonal right, - , diagonal left, - / partner right to left, left to right, right to left, pause / open side step to right and to left, turning body about 30 degs // three plain capers, clashing on the third.

Horsham (Broadwood chorus). Two sticks, one long and one short. Short in right.

Strike : hit tips of left on ground twice, hit opposite's left low down with tips twice / hit end of own left with tip of right twice and hit opposite's right tip high twice / repeat second bar twice more // repeat first and second bar // "sharpen" left stick with right, stroking both ends alternately away from middle of left stick / hit opposite's right with right three times in alternate directions.

Farewell Manchester (original chorus). Two sticks, one long and one short.

Strike : diagonal right with right. partner with left, diagonal left with right, partner with left / repeat / four plain capers turning to the left to form a circle as in once to self // hit neighbour's left with right three times, step forward into lines of four on fourth beat.

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