## A Trip to Lorient

Dance for 4 couples in a 4 couple longwise set $\quad 2 \times 64$ bar Strathspey $+2 \times 64$ bar Reel
This dance has two very closely related forms - a strathspey and a reel. Each is danced twice (for $2 x 64 S+2 x 64 R$ ).

## Strathspey

1-4
Joining hands on the sidelines, all advance and retire twice.
5-8 1 st and 3rd couples dance half a figure of eight around 2nd and 4th couples respectively.
9-10 $\quad 1$ st and 3rd couples dance down the set.
11-12 $\quad 1$ st and 3rd couples set to partners.
13-16 1st couple dances up to the top of the set and casts off into 3rd place while 3 rd couple dances up the set to $1^{\text {st }}$ place.
17-20 $\quad 2^{\text {nd }}$ and $1^{\text {st }}$ couples (in $2^{\text {nd }}$ and $3^{\text {rd }}$ positions) dance half a ladies chain.
21-22 $\quad 2^{\text {nd }}$ and $1^{\text {st }}$ ladies turn once round giving right hands while partners continue the ladies chain.
23-24 $\quad 2^{\text {nd }}$ and $1^{\text {st }}$ couples turn partners left hand to complete the ladies chain, with $2^{\text {nd }}$ couple on the men's side and $1^{\text {st }}$ couple on the ladies' side.
25-32 All dance a grand chain. Start with $3^{\text {rd }}$ lady changing places with $2^{\text {nd }}$ man, $3^{\text {rd }}$ man changing places with $1^{\text {st }}$ lady, $2^{\text {nd }}$ lady changing places with $4^{\text {th }}$ man and $1^{\text {st }}$ man changing places with $4^{\text {th }}$ lady. Allow the grand chain to become circular, finishing with everyone changing places left hand with partner into a square set.
Dancers are now in a square set in the order (by normal square set counting) 3,1,4, 2 .

All dance a highland setting step (Fling step)
51-52
53-54
55-56
57-64 All promenade around the set. When $3^{\text {rd }}$ couple reach the bottom of the set ( $3^{\text {rd }}$ position in a square set) they lead up the middle followed by $1^{\text {st }}$,
$4^{\text {th }}$ and $2^{\text {nd }}$ couples and fall back into a longwise set again.
Dancers are now in the order 3, 1, 4, 2, ready to either repeat the Strathspey or move into the Reel.
Reel
Note: this description assumes the couples are now renumbered according to their new positions in the longwaise set.
1-4 Joining hands on the sidelines, all advance and retire.
5-8 1st and 3rd couples dance half a figure of eight around 2nd and 4th couples respectively.
9-10 $\quad 1$ st and 3 rd couples dance down the set.
11-12 $\quad 1$ st and 3rd couples set to partners.
13-16 1st couple dances up to the top of the set and casts off into 3rd place while 3rd couple dances up the set to $1^{\text {st }}$ place.
17-20 $\quad 2^{\text {nd }}$ and $1^{\text {st }}$ couples (in $2^{\text {nd }}$ and 3rd positions) dance half a ladies chain.
21-22 $\quad 2^{\text {nd }}$ and $1^{\text {st }}$ ladies turn once round giving right hands while partners continue the ladies chain.
23-24 $\quad 2^{\text {nd }}$ and $1^{\text {st }}$ couples turn partners left hand to complete the ladies chain.
25-32 All dance a grand chain. Start with $3^{\text {rd }}$ lady changing places with $2^{\text {nd }}$ man, $3^{\text {rd }}$ man changing places with $1^{\text {st }}$ lady, $2^{\text {nd }}$ lady changing places with $4^{\text {th }}$ man and $1^{\text {st }}$ man changing places with $4^{\text {th }}$ lady. Allow the grand chain to become circular, finishing with everyone changing places left hand with partner into a square set.
Dancers are now in a square set in the order (by normal square set counting) 3,1,4, 2 .
33-40 All dance interlocking reels of four:
33-34: Ladies dance right hands across half way while men curve around into partners' places
35-36: Men dance right hands across half way while ladies cast out and curve round to face in again
37-38: Ladies dance right hands across half way while men cast out and curve round to face in again
39-40: Men dance right hands across half way while ladies cast out and curve round to face in again.
Finish with men back to back in the centre, ladies on the outside facing partners.
41-48 All dance a reel-time highland setting step.
49-56 All dance a Tulloch turn with partners, changing direction half-way as in the Reel of Tulloch. Finish in promenade hold.
57-64 All promenade around the set. When 3 rd couple reach the bottom of the set ( $3^{\text {rd }}$ position in a square set) they lead up the middle followed by $1^{\text {st }}$, $4^{\text {th }}$ and $2^{\text {nd }}$ couples and fall back into a longwise set again.
Dancers are now in the order 3, 1, 4, 2 .

Notes
1
The interlocking reels may be danced using highland travelling steps with a leap on bar 8 , if the dancers feel capable.
The promenade provides an opportunity for changing the axis if desired for a performance. To preserve the progression, $3^{\text {rd }}$ couple for that time through should always lead out into the longwise set.
For a performance, the final promenade can lead into whatever finale configuration is desired.
To achieve a full progression where everyone dances from every position and returns to original positions by the end, the dance should be danced twice in Strathspey time and twice in Reel time. However, for a performance or due to the music available (there are plentiful 64S+64R recordings), it may be considered preferable to dance just the single time through each in many cases. In this case an encore will bring people back to their original positions.
Second couple in particular will have to move fast in the promenade to get into $4^{\text {th }}$ place in the longwise set in time to fall back neatly with the other couples.

In April 2007 I was approached by Jim Healy on behalf of Membership Services committee and asked if I could produce a medley of Jig, Strathspey and Reel for the Festival Interceltique 2007 in Lorient, France. It was Scottish year at the Festival, and the RSCDS had been approached by VisitScotland to ask whether they could produce something appropriate.
I proposed a medley of two hitherto unpublished dances: In Scottish Spirit, plus a $64 S+64 \mathrm{R}$ medley in the style of Schiehallion, which I would come up with subsequently. This is the medley. I have tried to capture traditional references and figures (an exercise for the reader and dancer...) while still providing something spectacular for non-dancing audiences. In the end, the committee decided to just go with A Trip to Lorient and forget 'In Scottish Spirit'.
This dance was published by the RSCDS in "Four Dances 2008" along with the Spring 2008 issue of their magazine "Scottish Country Dancer". In that publication, the advance and retire in the strathspey section was only a single advance and retire in the four bars.

## Tunes: A Trip to Lorient+Reel for Rhona (Meikle)

(cc) Ian Brockbank, April 2007

