

## A Trip to Lorient

Dance for 4 couples in a 4 couple longwise set 2x64 bar Strathspey+2x64 bar Reel

*This dance has two very closely related forms – a strathspey and a reel. Each is danced twice (for 2x64S+2x64R).*

### Strathspey

- 1-4 Joining hands on the sidelines, all advance and retire twice.
- 5-8 1st and 3rd couples dance half a figure of eight around 2nd and 4th couples respectively.
- 9-10 1st and 3rd couples dance down the set.
- 11-12 1st 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 1st place.
- 17-20 2nd and 1st couples (in 2nd and 3rd positions) dance half a ladies chain.
- 21-22 2nd and 1st ladies turn once round giving right hands *while* partners continue the ladies chain.
- 23-24 2nd and 1st couples turn partners left hand to complete the ladies chain, with 2nd couple on the men's side and 1st couple on the ladies' side.
- 25-32 All dance a grand chain. Start with 3rd lady changing places with 2nd man, 3rd man changing places with 1st lady, 2nd lady changing places with 4th man and 1st man changing places with 4th 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 highland setting step (Fling step)
- 49-50 All advance and retire towards partners.
- 51-52 All turn partners  $\frac{3}{4}$  right hand.
- 53-54 All advance and retire towards partners.
- 55-56 All turn partners  $\frac{3}{4}$  left hand into promenade hold.
- 57-64 All promenade around the set. When 3rd couple reach the bottom of the set (3rd position in a square set) they lead up the middle followed by 1st,

4th and 2nd 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 longwise 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 1st and 3rd couples dance down the set.
- 11-12 1st 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 1st place.
- 17-20 2nd and 1st couples (in 2nd and 3rd positions) dance half a ladies chain.
- 21-22 2nd and 1st ladies turn once round giving right hands *while* partners continue the ladies chain.
- 23-24 2nd and 1st couples turn partners left hand to complete the ladies chain.
- 25-32 All dance a grand chain. Start with 3rd lady changing places with 2nd man, 3rd man changing places with 1st lady, 2nd lady changing places with 4th man and 1st man changing places with 4th 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:  
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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 3rd couple reach the bottom of the set (3rd position in a square set) they lead up the middle followed by 1st, 4th and 2nd 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.
- 2 The promenade provides an opportunity for changing the axis if desired for a performance. To preserve the progression, 3<sup>rd</sup> couple for that time through should always lead out into the longwise set.
- 3 For a performance, the final promenade can lead into whatever finale configuration is desired.
- 4 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.
- 5 Second couple in particular will have to move fast in the promenade to get into 4<sup>th</sup> 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 64S+64R 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