

# Auld Mahoun's Revenge

## or The Exciseman Returned

- Dance for 3 couples in a 4 couple longwise set 8x40 bar Reel
- 1-4 1<sup>st</sup> couple cast off 1 place and turn right hand once round. Remain facing out ready for...
- 5-8 1<sup>st</sup> couple cast round the person on their right (3<sup>rd</sup> corner, or partner's 1<sup>st</sup> corner) to finish in lines of three across the dance, 1<sup>st</sup> man between 2<sup>nd</sup> couple facing down, and 1<sup>st</sup> lady between third couple facing up; all set.
- 9-16 1<sup>st</sup> man with 2<sup>nd</sup> couple and 1<sup>st</sup> lady with 3<sup>rd</sup> couple dance reels of three across the dance, 1<sup>st</sup> couple giving right shoulder to the person on their right to begin. At the end, 1<sup>st</sup> couple pass left shoulder to face 1<sup>st</sup> corner.
- 17-20 1<sup>st</sup> couple set to 1<sup>st</sup> corner and turn them both hands to finish in lines of three across the dance, 1<sup>st</sup> lady between 2<sup>nd</sup> couple facing down, and 1<sup>st</sup> man between third couple facing up.
- 21-24 In the lines of three, all advance and retire.
- 25-32 1<sup>st</sup> lady with 2<sup>nd</sup> couple and 1<sup>st</sup> man with 3<sup>rd</sup> couple dance reels of three across the dance, 1<sup>st</sup> couple again giving right shoulder to the person on their right to begin. At the end, 1<sup>st</sup> couple pass left shoulder to face 2<sup>nd</sup> corner.
- 33-36 1<sup>st</sup> couple set to 2<sup>nd</sup> corner and turn them both hands to finish in lines of three on the sides, 1<sup>st</sup> couple in second place on the opposite side of the dance.
- 37-40 In the lines of three, 2s, 1s and 3s advance, 1<sup>st</sup> couple swiftly change places giving both hands, and all retire.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

**Note:** The phrasing of the first four bars is deliberately left ambiguous.

*The deil cam fiddlin' through the toon an' he danced awa' wi' th'exciseman,  
and ilka wife cried "Auld Mahoon, I wish ye luck o' the prize, man!"*

*The deil's awa', the deil's awa', the deil's awa' wi' th'exciseman.  
He's danced awa', he's danced awa', he's danced awa' wi' th'exciseman.*

I wrote this dance for the tune *The Deil's Awa' Wi' th'Exciseman* after hearing Iain MacPhail play his set *The Deil's Conundrum* on the regular Radio Scotland programme *Take the Floor*. I have since learned that there are several dances to this tune, called either by the full name of the tune or by the shortened form "The Deil's Awa'," so I decided to call this one "Auld Mahoun's Revenge" instead. It is a lively dance, as befits a dance with the devil.

**Tune:** The Deil's Awa' Wi' th'Exciseman (Traditional)

(cc) Ian Brockbank, August 1996