

The Geese in the Bog

- Dance for 3 couples in a 4 couple longwise set 8x32 bar Jig
- 1-4 1st couple and 2nd couple dance rights and lefts half way.
5-8 2nd and 1st couples set, 2nd couple cross over giving left hand **while** 1st couple turn by the left hand to face their 1st corners.
9-16 1st couple dance half a diagonal reel of four with their 1st corners, followed by half a diagonal reel of four with their 2nd corners.
17-18 1st man with 3rd couple (at the top) and 1st lady with 2nd couple dance right hands across in a wheel half way round.
19-22 3rd and 2nd couples dance left hands across in a wheel once round, **while** 1st couple chase half way clockwise round the set.
23-24 1st lady with 3rd couple and 1st man with 2nd couple dance right hands across in a wheel half way round.
25-28 3rd man and 2nd lady lead a curving chase as in the dance "Snake Pass": 3rd man followed by 3rd and 1st ladies dances down to 2nd lady's place, across to 2nd man's place, down to 3rd man's place and across to 3rd lady's place **while** 2nd lady followed by 2nd and 1st men dances up to 2nd man's place, across to 2nd lady's place, up to 1st lady's place and across to 1st man's place. The "snakes" pass by the left shoulder. Effectively what happens is that the wheels unwind, with 1st couple tagging on at the ends of the respective wheels. Finish in the order 2,1,3, all on the opposite side of the dance.
29-32 All set and cross over giving right hands.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

This dance and 'The Mill of Towie' came out of the concept of the alternating wheels, with 1st couple throwing the others into a muddle in the middle and drifting safely round the outside before taking pity and bringing them back out to place. They were my first Sunday-morning dances.

Bars 17-24 benefit greatly from crisp, accurate phrasing.

I heard the tune on a 'Boys of the Lough' recording, and it seemed to fit the dance, conjuring up images of strings of geese meandering aimlessly yet purposefully, all the time lost. Of course, it helps that it's a good tune.

This dance was published in Dunedin Dances 4.

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Tune: The Geese in the Bog (Traditional)

(cc) Ian Brockbank, 1993, or thereabouts