

KESWICK STAGE DANCE

As danced by the girls of St. John's School, Keswick c. 1910-12 and led by Miss Hayes. Seen by Mary Neal and Clive Carey who commented on the stepping. It is a derivative of the Mawdsley dance

Set: danced in units of 8 where as Mawdsley was for 16. Start in column facing up.

Sticks: 2 short sticks

Step: a kick-balance, walking step and skipping of the normal HW type.

Music: jigs.

Structure: The normal order is Walk-Up, Sticks-& Turn, Walk-Up, Sticks-& Turn, Twists, Figure.

As there are 5 figures this can be a long dance and it is suggested that the repetitive part be dropped between figures 2/3 and 4/5.

Walk-Up: start inside foot and walk forward 1, 2, 3 and do a swivel turn on the 4th strong beat inwards to face back without raising the supporting foot or hopping. Swing the free foot forward before the turn & so that it is left behind as the dancer turns & it can be swung forward again all to help the turn. The hands are swung gently forward and back alternately as in ordinary walking. Walk back to place & turn in and repeat all and end facing front with feet together. Walk two steps per bar.

Sticks-& Turn: "balances" : 4 step-hop type balances, one per bar, kicking across body like Devon "Bonny Breast Knot". All kick up towards the music in bar 1, odds to left, evens to right, then all kick down in bar 2, then kick up again in bar 3 but also make a complete turn on the spot upwards on the step and hop to face front and kick across downwards in bar 4. The turn is not 4 walking steps.

Repeat the whole sequence in the same direction, not the opposite. In the kicks the hands are swung quite strongly across the body from the side down and up so that end with wrists crossed just above waist level and the two sticks sloping up and out.

Twist: for all figures except no. 1 the dancers right elbow swing for 8 bars to move into formation for the next figure. Use skip step and have free hand up at the side.

The turns are made by the top pair 1&2, the bottom pair 7&8 and the sides along the sides, 4&6 and 3&5.



FIGURES

- In 4's, first corner cross, second corner cross, sides change, opposites change. Skip step. 2 bars for each change and pass right shoulders each time. Hold up outside hand in passing and have other at side. "Up" can be either with stick vertical or with the stick held horizontal fore & aft at ear level. One or the other throughout dance. (8 bars)



- End twist in a cross formation. Every other one with backs to centre. If the dance were a quadrille it would be the Gents in the middle. The dancer they swung with is in an outer ring facing in.



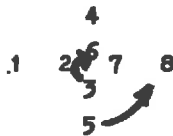
All do sticks and turn on the spot for 16 bars. This is 4 times through, the same way each time and the same way as the dancer did in the column formation. During the 4th (or 3rd if desired) the dancers move back into their starting place in the original column formation.

- End twist in Quadrille formation. Head pairs 1&2, 6&7 dance a right and left hand through, going across the set first, without giving hands at any stage of course, and raising the outside hand in passing. The side pairs 3&5, 4&6 face each other 3 to 5 etc and do sticks-& turn twice. (8 bars)
This is repeated with the side pairs dancing a right and left hand through while the head pairs face their partner and dance sticks-& turn twice. (8 bars)

Face partner 1 v 2 etc and grand chain all the way round the set to place, passing partner first by the right and again at half way. In each passing raise the outside hand, alternately left then right. Without giving hands. End in column. (8 bars)

Keswick 2.

Recommend full chorus is done at this point in the dance.



4. End twist in a cross formation. Inner 4 face round in a clockwise circle, outer 4 face around in an anticlockwise circle. Skip round the contra circles as shown, the inner circle going round twice and the outer one once in 8 bars. Meet partner with a left hand turn half way round to face back in the other circle. Dance back in the same way as the first half for 8 bars. The rings may be repeated.

It is suggested that the hand movements are both hands up for the first half of the movement and low crosses of the sticks at thigh level for the second half. End figure moving back into column, if going into a chorus or into the quadrille formation, if going straight onto next figure or, as done by Knots of May, repeat figure 2, sticks-8-turn 4 times in cross formation going into quadrille on the last turn.

5. End twist or other figure in quadrille formation as in figure 3.

Head pairs dance a right and left hand star in the centre, 4 bars each way, inside hands up and outside on hips. Turn in at half way. Meanwhile the side pairs dance a right and left through around the outside of the star, passing with partner first. Repeat with the side pairs doing the star and the head pairs going around. All face partner 1 v 2 etc grand chain, passing partner first by the right and passing alternate sides till meet partner on opposite side of set. Turn half way round to face back and complete grand chain retracing path to place. As before outside hand up in each passing.

END : walk-up, sticks-8-turn through twice then twist (waist swing) of partner to end in quadrille formation facing in and out, free hand up.



Throstle's Nest (Cumbria) found the sticks-8-turn difficult and have changed it to 4 bars of kick-balance without any turns, getting the free foot to tap beside the supporting foot before kicking it up. Then they turn on the spot in 8 mark time steps, sticks crossed over heads. All repeated.

KESWICK ROAD DANCE - CUMBRIA

As being interpreted by Throstle's Nest. Related to Mawdsley Road Dance.

1. Start dancers standing back to back in row down middle of set, sticks in air.

2. Hopstep at normal speed out to place, at normal separation, and turn "up" to face in.

CHORUS: slow hopstep, one hopstep per bar.

Move 2 bars in to meet, 1 bar to turn to right, 1 bar to face out again, 2 bars out to place, 1 bar turn right and 1 bar face up. Low crossing of sticks in front. 8 bars in all.

Mark time on spot facing up for 8 bars, arms at sides.

FIGURES:

1. Cross over and back. All the way to partner's place. Turns to the right.

2. As first part of Chorus but with normal speed hop steps.

3. In 4's, diagonals cross and half chain.

Bars 1-2 1st corner cross

Bars 3-4 2nd corner cross

Bars 5-6 change places with partner across the set

Bars 7-8 change places with neighbour along the side of the set, to place.

4. Partners turn by right half way round - to other side of set - then turn back by left to place.

FINAL FIGURE

All face up. Make arches with inside sticks and mark time.

No. 1 followed by no 2, no. 3 etc in single file go down under the arches, separate at the bottom and come up the outside on the wrong side, no. 1 on even side etc. When no. 1 is back at top all should have gone round and be opposite their own places. All cross back at the same time and reform arches with inside sticks. Odds cross in front of evens. Stop.

In the tunnel & cast the bottom pair just go over and back on an almost figure 8 path.