

There are of course differences in the manner of performance of particular figures between the various teams. Only in the case of "windows" is there a basic difference in the movement, at North Skelton it is related to the "roll", at Loftus to "arches". As this note is intended to be comparative the figures will be described first, rather than in the description of the individual dances as is the usual custom.

DOUBLE UNDER

In all the descriptions it is assumed that the dancers are numbered clockwise from 1 to 6. In each figure the set breaks at no. 1 first, thus movements are led off by 1&2 or 1&6.

The basic reference for a description of Double Under is usually Kirkby Palzeard, Sword Dances of Northern England Part 1, p. 49 as modified for Sleights, Part 2, p. 21.

Nos 4&5 raise the sword between them, making an arch, and move slowly forward towards the centre. Nos 1&2 carry 2's sword under followed by 3&6. Having carried their sword under the arch 1&2 raise it, make a half turn away from each other under it, and carry it back over the other dancers' heads to their starting places. As 1&2 turn, 4&5 make a half turn inwards to face 1&2; the couples having passed as far as the swords will comfortably allow; and 4&5 lead their sword back under the new arch. At end to get straight 1&2 make a $\frac{1}{4}$ turn inwards, 4&5, who have recrossed the set with arms crossed, have to make a $\frac{1}{2}$ turn outwards under the sword between them.

Sleights - each double under takes 8 bars and is followed immediately by the next.

North Skelton & Boosbeck - each double under takes 8 bars and is followed immediately by an open ring for 8 bars.

Loftus - the sword is led through at waist level, and the arch is made just above head level so that dancers do not have to duck. 4&5 did not seem to cross as far over the set as 1&2. The movement is done in 12 steps followed by 4 steps in open ring, then immediately repeated in reverse with 4&5 going under 1&2 first. Then there are 8 bars of open ring before the next pair of double unders. The phrasing of the turns is also a little different. On step 4 1&2 turn back; on step 8, 3 & 6 turn back and 4&5 turn in to go through; on step 12 4&5 turn to get straight.

Lingdale - double under repeated immediately by opposite couple as at Loftus. Lingdale phrasing is not so tight as Loftus. They also take about 12 steps. The sword going over at the start is raised with a full arm swing to well above head level. 1&2 turn back on steps 6 or 8, 3&6 turn on step 10 when 4&5, who raise their sword as soon as they have passed under 1&2's sword are already turning to back into place in order to be straight on step 12.

DOUBLE OVER

This figure is very similar to double under except that the sword is lowered rather than raised. Crossing the sword is done in a way which is very characteristic of the Cleveland dances. The crossing takes 4 beats -

beat 1 - a step.

beat 2 - a hop on the supporting foot, lifting the other over the sword.

beat 3 - step onto the other foot having crossed the sword.

beat 4 - hop on the supporting foot, bringing other over.

This puts the dancer back onto his original leading foot. Over a sword etc. is also done this way. The exact timing depends on the figure and the team. The dance is done with left foot leading. If right foot over first, the stepping is,

l. r. l. r. / l. hl. r. hr. /

If left foot over first it is,

l. r. l. r. / hr. l. hl. r. / this is the usual way.