

BARLEY MORRIS SIX HANDED STICK DANCE

Source : from film of Barley Morris on tour.

Music : ?

Steps : hopsteps

Sticks : long

Set : 6 dances in two lines.

CHORUS : sticking : clash tips high- and low- in each bar, but end two high clashes - in last bar.

FIGURES :

ONCE-TO-YOURSELF : stand facing up with stick on right shoulder.

1. **FOOT-UP-&-DOWN** : move up for 4 hopsteps, hopsteps on the spot and jump and turn out to face down. Move down for 4 hopsteps, hopsteps on the spot and jump to face front.
2. **CROSS-OVER** : normal path, passing right shoulders both times, with stepping and turns as in Foot-Up.
3. **REEL-OF-SIX** : all move into one line down centreline of the set, going to the right, left shoulders to opposite, turning anticlockwise to be in a line of 6 facing in pairs, in 4 hopsteps. Complete reel of 6 along the centreline, in 20 hopsteps, dance on the spot facing for last 8 hopsteps. Next chorus done facing in pairs.
4. **WHOLE-ROUNDS** : move out to starting place on 4 hopsteps, turning to end facing up and down the set in the opposite direction to which they were facing in pairs in the centre. Dance 4 hopsteps on the spot. Then large whole rounds anticlockwise, 20 hopsteps, and approach in two lines for the last 4 hopsteps.
5. **FOOT-DOWN-&-UP** : opposite to fig 1, ending all-up.

BROUGHTON COMPETITION DANCE

Source : video of Morris Dance Competition at Sidmouth.

Music :

Step : single or hopsteps

Set : 8 dancers, 4 with sticks (S) and 4 with handkerchiefs (H).

ENTRY : in single line in order S H H S S H H S, into circle and close in to initial formation.

▼ H H ▼

▲ H H ▲

FIGURE 1 - 8 bars - stickmen tap across the set, hopping throughout, and hitting stick tips right to left. The handkerchiefmen dance a reel of 4 across the centre of the set (how start?).

FIGURE 2 - 8 bars - stickmen dance a reel of 4 along centre of set (how start?). Others turn by the right and then the left, turning out at half way to face back and at the end to face across.

FIGURE 3 - 8 bars - stickmen tap with opposite along the centreline, while the others dance a right and left hand star.

 H H
▶ ◀ X ▶ ◀
 H H

FIGURE 4 - as figure 2.

FIGURE 5 - 8 bars - stickmen tap as in figure 3, while centres dance a reel of four across the set as in figure 1, passing neighbour on the side first.

FIGURE 6 - as figure 2.

FIGURE 7 - whole rounds clockwise and lead off in order came on.

BROUGHTON SIX HAND REEL

From : film of Broughton Monchelsea on Victory Morris Tour 1984.
Step : stephops with exaggerated lift of the knee.
Stick : medium sticks, on right shoulder for travelling, in both hands at butts for hitting.
Set : six dancers in two rows. Start facing opposite.

CHORUS - dance starts with a chorus and ends on a hey.

First Half : Evens - stand still, "hold" stick and adopt the "posture".

Odds - stand still but upright and hit tip of opposite's stick.

Eight strikes right to left for four bars with a small swing, and then eight strikes, alternating right to left and left to right, using full swings from one side of body to the other. But the eighth of these is another right to left rather than a left to right strike.

Second Half : as above in reverse, evens hitting odds sticks.

FIGURES - usually a whole hey followed immediately by a figure.

1. Whole Morris Hey, tops and bottoms turn out to start, complete in 6 bars and have 2 bars facing across. Then a cross over with opposite, passing right shoulder and turning to the right and approaching a little, all in four bars, then drive forward and do a left hand turn of opposite, with a wrist grip, to end in starting place, after another four bars.

2. Whole Morris hey, ending with all facing up. Then turn easy way into a clockwise whole rounds taking four bars, with the stick held out at arm's length by the middle and vertical, followed by left hand swing of neighbour, 1&3, 3&6 etc two times around in three bars and ending in starting place, taking another four bars in all.

3. Hey and end facing across. Then all turn to face out and dance towards the audience, if necessary dance on the spot before turning, turn right and come back.

4. Whole Hey and end dance facing up.

SHEEPSKIN JIG

From : Broughton Monchelsea in 1984. No sticks or handkerchiefs, or hats.

Steps : stephops, left foot start.

Arms : tendency to push both hands up at the start of phrases.

Set : three objects on ground in a row, in this case hats and three dancers in single file at one end. x x x <1 <2 <3

1. **Sheepskin Hey** - this is a three loop Figure of Eight danced around the objects on the ground. The feature that makes it a "Sheepskin Hey" is that as the string of three dancers passes the middle object, the last one in the line turns back around that object to get ahead of the leader and so in turn becomes the leader of the string. In this particular dance the turn back is only done when the string is going **down** the line of objects and not when coming back up. This means that at times all three dancers circle the top object together. The hey continues until No 1 is leading again and they start another part of the travel to get the dancers in the desired places.

2. **Clapping** - Nos 1 & 2 having started another hey stop when No 1 is by the the furthest object and No 2 by the middle object. They face up and down and clap / b - r+r - / b - l+l - / etc, swinging both arms out to side, about horizontal, between claps, while stephopping and No 3 dances around the whole area clockwise, ending behind No 2 who then turn $\frac{1}{2}$ way clockwise and claps with No 3 while No 1 goes round anticlockwise.

3. as 1. No 1 passes between the further two objects and the other two $\frac{1}{2}$ turn and follow into the hey.

4. **Circles** - come out of the hey in a convenient place, straight into circle around the central object, three times to the right, anticlockwise and to the left, clockwise, turning outwards at the half way point to come back, with an emphatic raise of both arms.

5. as 1.

6. **Star Burst** - all face across the central object in different directions and dance across and away from the centre, pause at the crowd, turn and come back, forming a line going clockwise around to the top of the objects to start the hey.

7. as 1. and lead off at end.

BLEDLOW CROSS

- Source** : Dance composed for a set of 12 to exploit the jaunty off-beat of ragtime.
- Set** : 12 dancers, working in groups of 3.
- Music** : Scott Joplin's tune or similar.
- Steps** : A sequence like / 1 h 2 h/ 1 h 2 h/ 1 h 2 h/ 1 2 3 -/ so that alternate 4 bars start off opposite feet. Last bar emphasised.
- Hands** : sticks or handkerchiefs. Arms swing alternately, the natural way. Sticks crossed in turns or hit in passings. Both hands raised up and out in a big sweep on the 4th bar where it is easy to fit in.

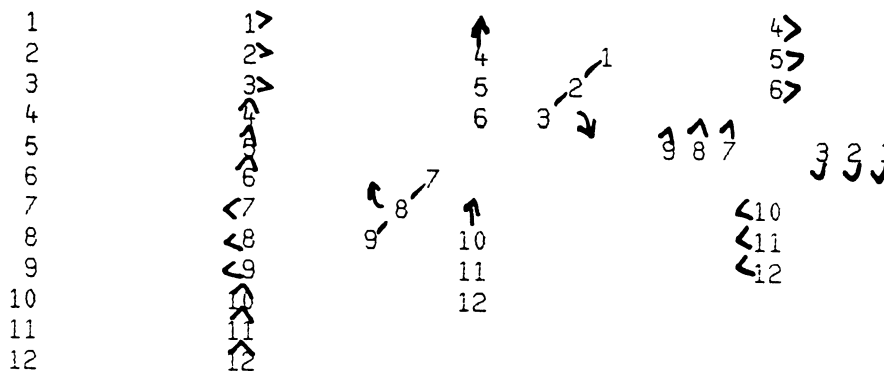
1. ENTRY

A single file of 12 dancers, thought of as in 4 groups of 3, come onto the dancing area and, after moving around the space, achieve a straight line along the centre of the area, with No.1 at the top.

The centre point for the rest of the dance should be where No 5 in the line is, because of the next figure, not between 6 & 7 as might be expected.

2. WHEEL

On the first beat, the first group of 3 make $\frac{1}{4}$ turn individually on the spot to face to their right, the third group make a $\frac{1}{4}$ turn on the spot to their left, while the other 2 groups continue to face up. The first and third groups, now shoulder to shoulder, dance a clockwise wheel for a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a full revolution, in 4 bars, so that the first group will be facing down and the third facing up in a line across the centre of the set. The second and fourth groups remain facing up and move forward for the same 4 bars, till they are where the first and third groups were when they did their $\frac{1}{4}$ turn on the spot, they then also make $\frac{1}{4}$ turns on the spot to face round the set clockwise.



The set is now in a cross formation with each arm formed by a group of 3. Note that there should be a gap between the arms in the middle of the set.

The cross completes the revolution till the first group is back at the top (12 bars, 16 bars in all).

3. SQUARE

In this movement the groups of three work as units. At the start the set is in a cross with the arms facing round clockwise. Instead of rotating around the centre, the groups work around the square alternately moving forward in line of three or in single files of three.

Bars 1-4 : each line abreast of 3 dances forward till lines form edge of a square, all turn $\frac{1}{4}$ to right to form single files of 3 on the /123-/.

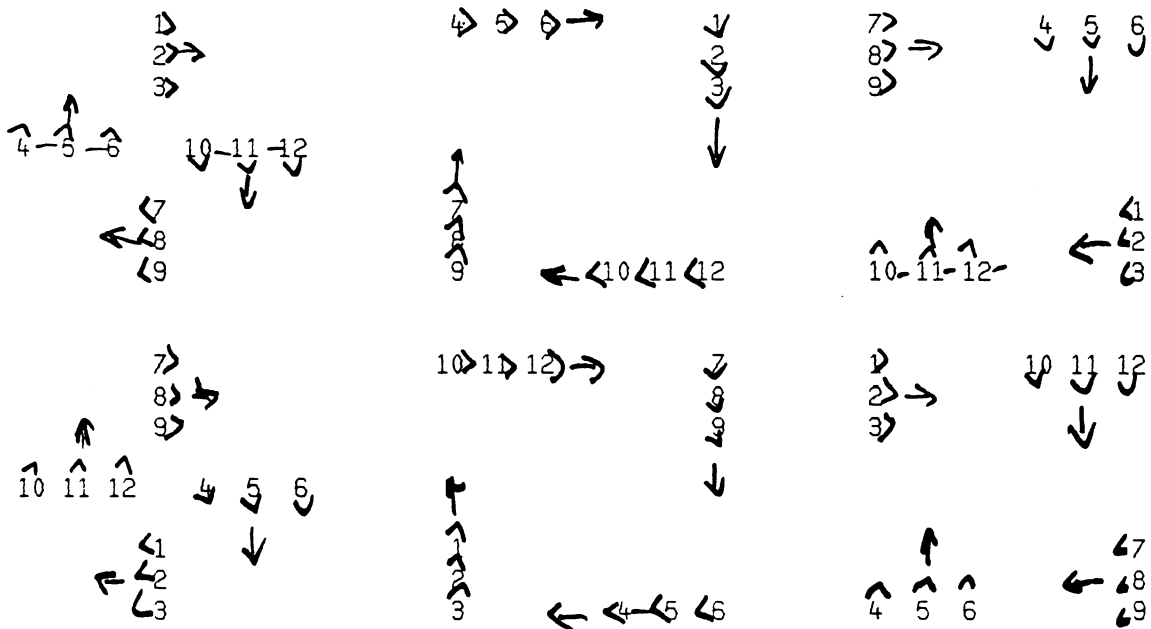
Bars 5-8 : dance forward along side of square, and all turn $\frac{1}{4}$ to right to form line abreast again.

Bars 9-12 : each line abreast dances forward till form cross again.

Bars 13-16 : carry on to other edge of square & $\frac{1}{4}$ right turn to form files.

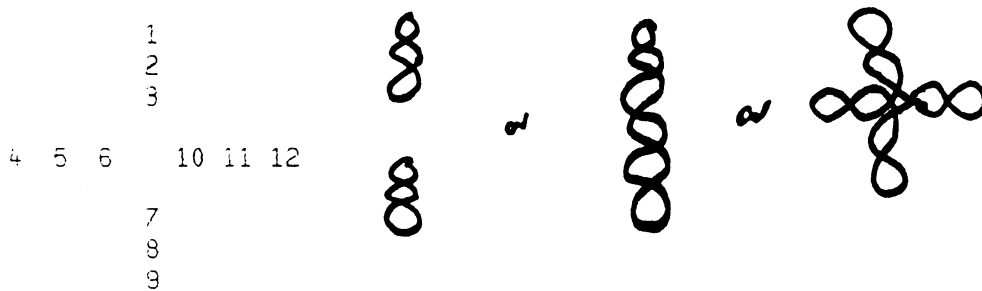
Bars 17-20 : dance along side of square & all turn $\frac{1}{4}$ right to form lines.

Bars 21-24 : each line dances forward to form original cross in original places.



4. REELS

From the cross formation, the outer ends face the centre and the other 2 of each 3 face outwards. Start progressive reels along the arms from the outside, first passing right shoulders. Simple reel of 3 twice through, or reel of 6 across the full diagonal or back or work along each arm in turn going round clockwise.



5. BIG CIRCLE

As dancers come out of the reels progressively, they turn to their right into a clockwise circle. They are not in their original order, the 3rd and 4th groups are in reverse order. The group leaders are now, 1, 4, 9, 12.

6. ROUNDS & STARS

The group leaders turn in to their right and lead their groups into four rounds of 3 persons going round clockwise inside the original big circle. Turn inwards to come back anticlockwise making Four 3-handed stars.

Group leaders lead their groups out into the big circle going anticlockwise.

7. CENTRE

All face the centre of the ring, all dance into the centre, arms at sides, and retire backwards, both arms up. Repeat and end feet together facing in.

THE OLD MILL

Source : taught at a workshop.
Music : polkas.
Steps : hopsteps.
Sticks : two short sticks each.
Set : eight dancers in two lines.

Order of Movements : there are only two figures, the first done several times and the last only once. There is a fixed sticking chorus between each figure, but done in a different pattern each time.

THE FIGURE : A rather wild movement ! : The middles turn round their neighbouring corner. Both dancers face the same way and link their inside arms, right with left. The middles start by going inside their neighbour, Nos 3 and 6 going round anticlockwise, Nos 4 and 7 clockwise. The corner rotates more or less on the spot, giving "weight" to help the middle around as quickly as possible, and "flinging" them into the following star. The middles then star four hands around one and a half times so that they end in the other half of the set, but on the wrong side. They then repeat the movement with the other corners to get back to their starting place. The dancers have to turn to face the next direction smartly, there is no time to "drift" or to stop and think! Note that two of the four middles will come to the star with the "wrong" hand. Teams must agree on the rule for the hands in the stars as either both left or both right or alternate will do.

THE HEY : The final movement is a complex version of THE FIGURE. It starts the same with turning on the corners, but this time with a turn and a half so that the dancers change places, and the original corners star in the middle round one and half. This pattern continues with pairs continually changing places till all are back to where they started. The movement can be taken more slowly than the figure and of course it takes much longer.

STICKING :

/b b r+r - /b b l+l - /b unr b unl /b beh b - // repeat in reverse.

The dancers turn on the spot in bar 3 and half of bar 4, turning to the right when starting clashing under the right leg and turning to the left when starting clashing under the left.

b = hit own together in front : r+r, l+l = opposites hit . unr = clash own sticks under a lifted right thigh : unl = under left : beh = clash behind.

CHORUS 1 : stick with partner.

CHORUS 2 : in fours, stick with diagonal. The second corner hits 2 bars out of phase, doing the turns before hitting partner.

CHORUS 3 : ends and sides stick, Nos 1 and 2, 3 and 5, 7 and 8, 6 and 4. The middles move out sufficiently to stand in a square to stick.

CHORUS 4 : each sticks with their other neighbour, Nos 1 and 3, 5 and 7, 8 and 6, 4 and 2, the person the other side to that in chorus 3. They orientate to form a square rotated 45° from the previous chorus.

UNIVERSAL COMPETITION DANCE

This dance is just the pattern, the steps are the choice of the team.

The dance is for a set of six.

1. ENTRY

Come on in single file and at the dancing place move out to form a set in two columns each facing across the set.

2. LINES

All move forward into a line along the centreline of the set, right shoulders to opposite dancer and retire to place. Dance on the spot for 4 bars. Repeat going the other shoulder etc.

3. THREE STARS

Middles go to their right and star three right handed with the ends going round two thirds to change places. Then the new middles go to their left and star three left handed with the new ends. Repeat till back to place.

2	4	6		4	1	5		2	3	1		3	6	5		2	4	6
			to				to				to				to			
1	3	5		2	6	3		6	4	5		2	1	4		1	3	5

4. BACK TO BACK

As 2 but back to back instead of into line.

5. U HEY

Hey round the set crossing at the bottom of the set but not at the top.

1&3, 2&4, 5&6 start by passing right shoulders, and alternate passing. When reach top of column, turn and come back along the same column. The movement continues till everyone visits everywhere.

6. HALF ROUNDS

As 2 but half round the set, moving as a set not just with opposite.

7. LINE OF SIX

All face up and move into a line of six across the set, tops in the middle, bottoms at the ends. Dance a movement starting from this position, and end the dance all facing up.

JOURNEY'S END

- Source** : danced by English Miscellany at Towersey 1991. Can be danced in different styles with two sticks, as a border dance with one stick, as handkerchief dance or with staves.
- Steps** : skip-change step for travelling, kick-balance or polka on spot.
- Set** : Six dancers in two lines of three, facing across set at the start. To keep the dance flowing the patterns have to be made large.
- Fig 1.** : **Whole Hey** : a Cotswold morris hey pattern for six, ends turning out and middles following the tops.
- Fig 2.** : **Reel of Four** : the centres stand still in their place facing across the set (if two sticks, cross them in front). The bottom pair go up between the middles, changing sides, odd side in front, and dance around the opposite middle, cross again and dance around neighbouring middle to place thus completing a 'figure of eight'. The tops cast down, just as starting the hey, and go below the middles, then follow the bottom pair around the figure of eight. As they end by going round their neighbour, they continue by passing up through the bottom pair and go up the centre to their starting place.
- Fig 3.** : **Cast** : All face up, top pair cross inside sticks, and all lead up in pairs for 2 bars, then the top pair dance on the spot or retire bringing the crossed sticks back over the other dancers heads, for 2 bars, while the other two pairs dance up under and go into a single cast. The old top pair join in the cast behind the others. All dance up the middle (with inside sticks crossed) to form a set where everyone has moved a place in the set.
- Fig 4.** : **Step & Turn** : All face across and dance 4 bars on spot, either
(a) 4 kick-balances holding hands or crossing sticks along sides,
(b) 4 polkas on spot (with two sticks crossed in front of chest),
(c) hit tips of sticks together with opposite for 4 bars, the choice depending upon what implement is used.
- All turn opposite once round with the right hand (stick).
- Repeat two more times through till all back to starting place.

THREE JOLLY SHEEPSKINS

From : Fleur de Lys Morris, 1990, developed from a workshop dance.
Music : "Three Jolly Sheepskins".
Stick : medium length, and sloped over right shoulder when not in use.
Step : stephops.
Set : six dancers in two rows facing.

CHORUS - starts dance.

Evens have sticks in the "hold" and take the "posture". Odds stephop and hit the proffered stick tip vigorously, r to l, l to r twice in each bar for four bars, 16 strikes in all. Then all turn to face up and follow No 1 around No 2 to dance a Sheepskin Hey along the evens line. When the last cast back is done, by No 1, the dancers pause and hold position between the evens thus,

2 1 4 3 6 5

all facing to the odds side, then the odds dance back to place turning up to face across. This is repeated immediately by the evens striking the odds sticks, the evens going round the top of the odd row and doing a Sheepskin Hey which is the mirror image of that done by the odds. They also pause in a single line, the evens below their opposites, and cross to place turning up to face across.

1. **Back-to-Backs.** The odds dance the first half of a conventional back-to-back, passing right shoulders first, around the evens who stand still in their positions. Then the evens dance, passing right shoulders first, around the odds who stand still. The odds and then the evens dance the other half of the back-to-back passing left shoulders first. 16 bars in all.

2. **Reel.** Both opposites stephop on the spot, and clash their stick tips together high, four to the bar, for four bars, then move forward, passing right shouldlers and turning to the right into a Reel of Six along the centre line of the set. 16 bars in all.

3. **Circle.** Dance rounds clockwise, anticlockwise, and off following leader.

OLD BROSELEY

Source : Iron Men
Music :
Steps : hopsteps
Set : 8 dancers, standing in a circle, linked by the sticks hilt and point like a sword dance.

ONCE-TO-YOURSELF :

SING : "Old Mrs Docherty, she got into bed with me.
Threw her leg right over me, to keep my belly warmer."

- A1 **ONE CIRCLE** : all face the centre for 2 bars, circle once round clockwise to place in 4 bars, and dance facing centre for 2 bars.
- B1 **STICKS** : Face in four pairs, stick for 2 bars, hitting right to left forehand high (up), and hitting left to right backhand low (down) in each bar. All turn clockwise 180° to face dancer behind and repeat. Continue this sticking to fill 8 bars, 16 hits in all.
- A2 **TWO CIRCLES** : Dance in two circles, sticks on shoulders, outer ring being those facing round anticlockwise and the inner ring being those facing clockwise. Outer circle round once, inner circle twice (?). Take 2 bars to move into the rings, 4 bars to go round, and 2 bars to fall back to place.
- B2 **STICKS**
- A3 **INSIDE-OUT** : a "double-under", 2 bars to form hilt-&-point ring, 2 bars to cross under an arch to turn set inside out, 2 bars facing out, 2 bars to face in pairs ready for sticking.
- B3 **STICKS**
- A4 **STAR** : Hands across in fours, knuckles in the middle.
- B4 **STICKS**
- A5 **INSIDE-OUT** : repeat to place.
- B5 **STICKS**
- A6 **FINISH** : all circle hilt-&-point as in A1, all turn on the spot anticlockwise to face out, raising hands and turning under them so that they are now crossed, and count 4 and stand still. Sing the words again.
Let go sticks and dance off in single file.

THREE HANDED CIRCLE DANCE

Source : taught to Minden Rose by Knockshuttle Hundred. Related to the "Three Old Men's Dance" from Clippingholme, Lancs [see C# Book]
Music : Keel Row.
Set : three dancers stand in a ring, facing inwards, hands on neighbour's shoulders.

A : Circle to the left, hop on leading foot and trailing foot does a heel and toe step.
B : Circle to the right, with the same stepping but on the other feet.
C : **Slaps** : Drop arms to sides. Each dancer in turn does the following. First dancer claps both hands together in front of chest on the first strong beat, and slaps their right thigh with their right hand on the second strong beat. Then slaps their right hand neighbour's left shoulder with the right hand on the first strong beat of bar 2 and kicks their backside with their right foot on the second strong beat. The first dancer does this to the second in bars 1/2, the second dancer to the third in bars 3/4, the third dancer to the first in bars 5/6 and the first dancer again to the third in bars 7/8.

Repeat A - C a few times and then,

D : All raise their right knee, pass their left hand under it from the left to the right and grasp the right hand of their right hand neighbour, so that all have their arms crossed right over left.

Thus linked up, all hop on their left feet and circle to their left, till they fall over or something, so that the dance can not continue.