FROM TWO BARNs

TEN MORE COUNTRY DANCES

MAINLY FROM THOMPSON, WRIGHT & WILSON

Vol. 2 September 1983
FOREWORD

The trouble with picking up a good book is the difficulty in putting it down again. Having turned a few pages of Thomson’s Compleat Collection it became clear that we only use a small part of our musical heritage, and that many fascinating tunes and dances are buried in these old collections.

This book contains ten tunes, which to the best of my knowledge have not been used very often during the last thirty years and for probably much longer. To nine of these have been added interpretations or modifications of the dances which were set to them in the original volumes, the tenth dance is a concoction of my own.

Four sources have been used, namely Thompson’s Compleat Collection Vol. 4 of 1780 (usually known as Mrs. Apted’s old book), Thomas Wilson’s Companion to the Ballroom of 1816, Daniel Wright’s Compleat Collection Vol. 1 of 1742 and John Walsh’s Twenty Four Country Dances for 1732 from which the tune Groveners Square was taken and modified for “The Blue Primrose”.

My thanks are due to the “captive audiences” at The Headington Quarry Club, The Stonesfield Club, The Charlbury Dancers and the Witcombe Sunday Club on whom the dances were tried out, to Tom Cook for his most helpful suggestions and encouragement and to John Graham who added the chords to the music.

Ken Sheffield

Hall Barn Eynsham Oxford
1983
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THE TON

A

Longways duple minor

A1  1st man lead 2nd man round the ladies
    All turn partner 2 hands finishing in place.

A2  2nd lady lead 1st lady round the men
    All turn partner 2 hands finishing in place.


B2  1st couple lead down through the 2nd couple and cast
    round the next 2nd couple, lead up to their original place
    and cast into progressed place
    2nd couple moving up.

Source: Thompson’s Compleat Collection Vol. 4 1780
THE RAINBOW

PLAY A.A.B.

Longways duple minor improper

A1 1st man and 2nd lady set R. and L. and turn single while 1st lady and 2nd man do the same 1st man and 2nd lady and 1st lady and 2nd man join inside hands and change places, 1st lady and 2nd man making an arch.

A2 Same back again 2nd lady and 1st man making arch.


B 5–6 1st couple lead down and up into 2nd place while 2nd couple move up (progression).

B 7 1st man and 2nd man change places passing L.S. while 1st lady and 2nd lady change places passing R.S. (see note).

B 8 1st man and 2nd man change places passing L.S. while 1st lady and 2nd lady change places passing R.S.

N.B. 1st man and 2nd man must pass first.

Source: Thompson’s Compleat Collection Vol. 4 1780
GUARDIAN ANGELS

Set dance for 3 couples longways


A1 5 – 8 Reverse to places i.e. 1st couple set R. and L. and cast back up.

A2 1 – 2 1st couple cross over R.S. and dance down the outside of the set giving inside hands to 2nd couple who move up.

3 – 4 1st couple cross over L.S. and dance down the outside of the set giving inside hands to 3rd couple who move up into 2nd place.

5 – 8 1st couple lead up to top and cast into 2nd place, 3rd couple moving down during bar 7. 1st couple turn single, man to R. and lady to L.

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GUARDIAN ANGELS

B1 1 – 2 1st man R.H. star with 3rd couple while 1st lady R.H. star with 2nd couple.

3 – 4 Hands 6 half way round to L.

5 – 6 1st man L.H. star with 2nd couple (down) while 1st lady L.H. star with 3rd couple (up).

7 – 8 Hands 6 half way round to R. (1st couple should finish on own side in middle).

B2 1 – 4 1st man hey for 3 with 3rd couple at bottom while 1st lady does same with 2nd couple at top.

5 – 8 1st man hey for 3 with 2nd couple at top while 1st lady does same with 3rd couple at bottom. 1st couple lead to bottom 3rd couple cast up.

Source: Thompson’s Compleat Collection Vol. 4 1780

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In affectionate memory of Jim Rolf of Long Crendon, who was involved in growing some of the first blue polyanthus.

Set dance for 3 couples longways

Part 1
A1 1–4 All lead up and back a double.
5–8 All set to partner R. and L. and turn single.
A2 1–8 Circle L. for 6 once round.
B1 1–4 1st man and 3rd lady, 1st lady and 2nd lady, 2nd man and 3rd man, set R. and L. and change places passing R.S.
B1 5–8 All set R. and L. to person opposite (across the set) and change places R.S.
B2 1–4 3rd lady and 1st man, 3rd man and 2nd man, 2nd lady and 1st lady set R. and L. and change places passing R.S.
B2 5–8 All set R. and L. to person opposite (across the set) and change places R.S. to original places.
THE BLUE PRIMROSE

Part 2.
A1 1 – 4 All side L.S. and R.S.
A1 5 – 8 All set to partner R. and L. and turn single.
A2 1 – 8 Circle L. for 6 once round.
B1 1 – 2 1st man and 2nd lady cross over, while 2nd man and 3rd lady do the same.
B1 3 – 4 1st couple change places passing R.S. while 3rd couple do the same.
B1 5 – 8 1st lady hands 3 with 1st and 2nd man, while 3rd man hands 3 with 2nd and 3rd lady half way round to finish will all the men on the ladies’ side and the ladies on the mens’ side.
3rd couple are now at top, 2nd couple in middle and 1st couple at the bottom.
B2 1 – 2 3rd lady and 2nd man change places R.S. while 2nd lady and 1st man do the same.
B2 3 – 4 1st couple change places passing R.S. while 3rd couple do the same.
B2 5 – 8 3rd man hands 3 with 2nd and 3rd lady while 1st lady hands 3 with 1st and 2nd man half way round to finish with everyone in original place.

Part 3
A1 1 – 8 All arm L. and R.
A2 1 – 8 Circle L. for 6 once round.
B1 1 – 8 Complete reversed grimstock hey (Morris hey) 2nd couple start by moving up.
B2 1 – 2 All set R. and L. moving forward into line.
B2 3 – 8 Cross over and take hands in lines of 3 facing out. Lines turn round (1st couple moving down the outside while 3rd couple back up the middle) 1st couple meet in middle of line and all 6 dancers move up a double in line and honour the presence.

Source: Tune – A modification of Groveners Square
(Walsh 24 dancers for 1732)
Dance – K.J.S.

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THE OLD JUBILEE

Longways triple minor

A1 1 – 4 1st lady cast down and turn 3rd man with R.H. once round, 2nd lady moves up.

A1 5 – 8 1st lady, 2nd man and 3rd couple hands 4 once round L. while 2nd lady and 1st man turn 2 hands at top.

A2 1 – 4 1st man cast down and turn 3rd lady with L.H. once round, 2nd man moves up.

A2 5 – 8 1st couple and 3rd couple hands 4 once round R. while 2nd couple turn 2 hands at top.

Set is now progressed.

B1 1 – 4 1st couple lead down through 3rd couple and cast back to middle place.

B1 5 – 8 All set R. and L. and turn single.

B2 Circular hey for 6 once round to finish with 1st couple in middle place.
N.B. 1st couple in middle face down, 3rd couple face up, 2nd couple face each other to start the hey.

Source: Wilson's Companion to the Ballroom 1816

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TRUE JOAK

Longways duple minor

A1 1st lady leads 1st and 2nd men round 2nd lady to their original place. All turn single.

A2 1st man leads 1st and 2nd lady round 2nd man to their original place. All turn single.

B1 1–4 1st man and 2nd lady turn with R.H. three quarters round so that they finish 2nd lady in 1st lady’s place and 1st man in 2nd man’s place while 2nd man casts up into 1st man’s place and 1st lady casts down into 2nd lady’s place.

B1 5–8 Ring for 4 all round to progressed place.

B2 1–4 Back to back all.

B2 5–8 Four changes circular hey, (skipped quickly) to progressed places.

Source: Wright’s Compleat Collection Vol. 1 1742

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A TRIP TO WIMBLETON

A

Longways duple minor

A1 1st man and 2nd lady cast off into each others place. All turn partners 2 hands once round (along the line).

A2 1st lady and 2nd man cast off into each others place. All turn partners once round (across the set).

All are now in progressed place and improper.

B1 1st man and 2nd lady cross over R.S.
1st lady and 2nd man cross over L.S.
All set R. and L.
1st couple cast and 2nd couple lead up.

B2 1st couple lead through NEXT 2nd couple cast up to progressed place and 4 changes of circular hey (skipped) with original 2nd couple.

Source: Wright's Compleat Collection Vol. 1 1742
BETTER DAY BETTER DEED

Longways triple minor

A1 1–4 All side into line L.S. and fall back.
A1 5–6 1st couple cast one place while 2nd couple move up.
A1 7–8 All change places with partner R.S.
A2 1–4 All side into line R.S. and fall back.
A2 5–6 1st couple cast one place while 3rd couple move up.
A2 7–8 All change places with partner L.S.
B1 1–2 1st and 3rd man and 1st and 3rd lady change places R.S. along the line.
B1 3–4 1st couple only cross over L.S. in the middle.
B1 5–6 1st man and 2nd lady change places (along the line) R.S. while 1st lady and 2nd man do the same.
B1 7–8 1st couple only change places L.S. in their original place.
B2 1–4 1st couple taking inside hands lead down the set taking 2nd couple with them in a line of 4 while 3rd couple lead down and cast up round the 2nd couple who are on the ends of the line.
B2 5–8 1st and 2nd couple turn to face up (man R. and lady L.) and make rings of 3 on sides with the 3rd couple who have cast above them. Men circle L. and ladies R. finishing with 1st couple in progressed place.

Source: Wright's Compleat Collection Vol. I 1742

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DAPPER HARRY

Longways triple minor

A1 1 – 2 1st man and 2nd lady cross over.

A1 3 – 4 1st lady and 2nd man cross over.

A1 5 – 8 All turn partner with R.H. to finish on correct side, i.e.
1st and 2nd couples turn once and a half, while 3rd couple
turn once.

A2 1 – 8 Hey on both sides 1st couple leading down between 3rd
couple who start the hey by casting away, as do the 2nd
couple at the top (Morris hey).

B1 1 – 2 All set R. and L.

B1 3 – 4 1st man cast down one place, 3rd man move up while 1st
lady cast up one place and 2nd lady move down. 3rd lady
and 2nd man turn single.

B1 5 – 8 Ring of 6 half way.

B2 1 – 4 1st couple move forward to meet and turn finishing
improper in middle place, while 3rd man casts up one
place and 2nd lady casts down one place. 3rd lady and 2nd
man turn single.

B2 5 – 8 Hands 6 half way to progressed places.

Source: Wright's Compleat Collection Vol. 1 1742

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NEALS MAGGOT

Play A.A.B.

A

Longways duple minor

A1 1–4  1st man and 2nd lady turn once round R.H.

A1 5–8  1st man turns outward to his L. and casts off and returns up the middle to the same place, while 2nd lady turns outwards to her L. and casts up and returns down the middle to the same place.

A2 1–4  1st lady and 2nd man turn once round L.H.

A2 5–8  1st lady turns outward to her R. and casts off and returns up the middle to the same place, while 2nd man turns outward to his R. and casts up and returns down the middle to the same place.

B 1–6  R. and L. hand star (2 bars to R. 2 bars to turn 2 bars to L. finishing in same place).

B 7–8  1st couple move down into 2nd place, while 2nd couple move up into 1st place, men passing L.S. and ladies passing L.S.

Source: Wright's Compleat Collection Vol. 1 1742