

Price

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY
STRATHSPEY
AND
REEL CLUB



DANCES

PRICE SIXPENCE
(For members only)

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FOREWORD

Most of the Scottish country dances are longways dances; the dancers stand in line facing their partners, the men with their left to the top of the room. They are divided into sets of four, five or six couples. The first couple in each set begins. After completing the dance once, they find themselves in second place. They then dance it through again and progress downwards another place. As they go down the other couples come up; when each couple reaches the top they wait, standing idle until joined by enough couples to support them. In two-couple dances (such as Scottish Reform, Jenny's Bawbee, etc.), they have only one turn idle. In three-couple dances (such as Broun's Reel) they have to wait two turns, moreover they have one turn idle in second place. In some three-couple dances the first couple can dance a modified version with the last couple only. When this is not so the first couple dance until they reach the bottom position but one and then slip into bottom place. There is an exception to all this when a three-couple dance is being danced by a set of four couples, the first couple dances through twice and then slips to the bottom. The modified version cannot be danced in this case.

In three-couple dances first corners for the first man and woman are the third woman and second man respectively, second corners are the second woman and third man. For any movement involving corners the second couple should move up into first place and the two first corners should face each other as should the second corners.

In the country dances the men let their hands hang by their sides when not in use. The women hold their dresses with theirs.

In the Eightsome and Foursome, which are Highland dances, the men have their arms akimbo or in the air according to the step they are doing.

When turning with one hand each person gently grips the others' elbow. When turning with both hands (or Poussetting) the men offer their palm upwards, the women palm downwards, right in left and left in right.

It is important for the guidance of those dancing the figures that couples standing still should keep correctly in line.