



**Wellington Region,
NZ Branch,
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society**

COVID-19 Collection

Introduction

In March 2020, as New Zealand was plunged into lockdown due to Covid 19, I set a challenge for Wellington dancers to keep them thinking about dancing even if unable to meet on the dance floor. The challenge was to devise the “best dance which allows social distancing measures to be demonstrated in the dance.” While the criterion caused some confusion, and ultimately was interpreted in a variety of ways, the devisors in the region rose to the challenge and this is a compilation of the dances submitted

While two of the dances were devised in such a way as to allow them to be danced with NZ Covid Level 3 restrictions in place, ensuring 1.5 – 2m distance between dancers at all times. Other devisors interpreted the criterion to be that which was advised at lower Covid Levels. This interpretation resulted in more traditional dances but with formations where no hands are taken (e.g. Hello Goodbye setting, reels and gypsy turns), or where formations were modified to avoid the use of hands (e.g. a circle being replaced by a chase). Yet other devisors choose to tell Covid Story. The diversity, variety of interpretation and imagination demonstrated made declaring winners difficult however the final results were:

Best dance demonstrating social measures (1.5-2 metres throughout)

- The Jewellery Shop – Devised by Edith Campbell

Best two dances which, demonstrating social distancing measures for lower Covid Levels.

- The Great Teddy Bear Hunt – Devised by Rod Downey
- The Amateur Epidemiologist – Devised by Andrew Oliver

I hope you enjoy the many interesting dances in this compilation.

Ann Oliver

President, Wellington Region, NZ Branch RSCDS

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The Jewellery Shop

(lots of diamonds!)

32 bar Strathspey for two couples in a four couple set

Note: Two metres between each dancer in the sidelines and across the set

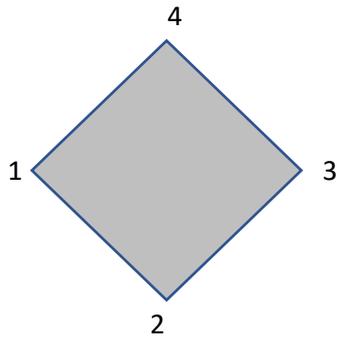
Bars:

- 1 - 8 1st couple 'Petronella' into the middle of the set (1st man no 'turn') and face down the set, dance down two steps, turn, dance up two steps, then 1st woman dances two steps into 1st man's place and 1st man into 1st woman's place; *meanwhile* 2nd couple dance *the diamond pin* – 2nd couple retire for two steps, then – with one step for each turn – dance a complete turn i.e. four quarter turns – one **setting step*** to face each of the four corners of diamond, then advance two steps back to place (*** see below**)
- 9 – 16 2nd couple 'Petronella' into the middle of the set (2nd woman no 'turn') and face up the set, dance up two steps, turn, dance down two steps, then 2nd woman dances two steps into 2nd man's place and 2nd man into 2nd woman's place; *meanwhile* 1st couple dance *the diamond pin* (as above)
- 17-24 *Diamond change across the set (see diagram):*
1st couple cross to own side four steps; then 2nd couple cross to own side four steps
- 25 – 32 Triangle/Zoom progression (1st and 2nd couples change places) (see diagram) to finish 1st couple in second place and 2nd couple in first place ON OWN SIDES

Repeat having passed a couple.

As noted above, this dance was devised for sets with dancers in the sidelines being 2 metres apart and the sidelines also being 2 metres apart, hence four steps required to cover the distances usually covered by two. Suggested as a **strathspey** (people do not usually dash around a jewellery shop) **OR** it could be danced at **reel** tempo. * **strathspey setting or pas de basque according to chosen tempo.**

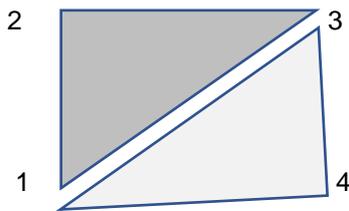
Devised by Edith Lauder Campbell



Diamond change across the set

*First and second couples to cross back to own sides –
Passing left shoulders to change places - two steps to
go from one position to the next.*

i.e. **women** two steps from 3 to 4 then two steps from 4
to 1: **men** two steps from 1 to 2 then two steps from
to 3 (one 'diamond' danced) = 8 bars



Triangle/Zoom* progression

*Four steps to move one from one position to next
bars:*

1st woman dances four steps from 1 to 3, 1st man
four steps from 4 to 1, 2nd man four steps from 3 to
4, 2nd woman sets twice in place

then 4 bars:

1st woman dances four steps from 3 to 2, 1st man
four steps from 1 to 3, 2nd woman four steps from 2
to 1, 2nd man sets twice in place *Alternative name -
Zoom progression* as 1st woman's and 1st man's
moves create a **Z in rectangle 1st woman's, 2nd
woman's, 2nd man's and 1st man's places***

The Great Teddy Bear Hunt

A 32 bar Jig in a 4 couple set.

Bars:

- 1 - 8 1st couple dance a figure of eight around 2nd couple, crossing between 2nd couple to begin.
- 9 – 16 2nd couple followed by 1st couple dance a figure of eight similarly around 3rd couple, finishing with 2nd couple in first place, and 1st couple in second place facing in and down. The order for the crossings should be 2nd Lady, 2nd Man, 1st Lady, 1st Man.
- 17 – 28 1st couple, 3rd couple and 4th couple dance 1½ mirror double crossover reels on the sides. To wit: 1st couple dancing crossing to opposite sides on bars 17 and 18 through third place, 3rd couple out and up, crossing over on bars 19 and 20 and 4th couple in and up (4th couple do not cross in these reels). 1st couple cross back to own sides on bars 25 and 26 and 3rd couple on bars 27 and 28, 3rd couple finish facing out and down 1st couple facing in and up. Finish with the set in order 2nd couple, 4th couple, 3rd couple, and 1st couple.
- 29 – 32 1st couple and 3rd couple turn 1½ times, with LH on the men's side and RH on the ladies side.

Finishing order 2,4,1,3.

Repeat with a new top couple.

Notes: Devised 4/3/2020. Whilst in covid-19 lockdown houses have put teddy bears into windows and around houses in New Zealand motivating the "great teddy bear hunt." Recommended tune is "The Teddy Bear's Picnic" (John W. Bratton) composed in 1907. There is a nice recording called "Fete Champetre" by David Hall and his band and another called "Pink Panda's Picnic" by Gordon Shand and his Scottish Dance Band.

The figures reflect the various COVID-19 Levels of shutdown in New Zealand. 1-8 is level 4, where we can only be in our own house bubble (Kristin (my wife) and I), 9-16 is level 3, where we can involve others but only a slightly bigger bubble, in this case my youngest son and his fiancée' (although we also involved Lorelee, but deviser's licence), 17-28 is level 2 where we come out of our houses and can involve small groups, and 29-32 is level 1, where we can touch others, and don't have social distancing.

Teaching Notes Obviously this is a fugue and may take a wee bit of work especially with the reels. These should be thought of as "Last of the Laird" reels except for the bottom couple. The tandem figure of eight movement needs the second couple not to be tardy.

Devised by Rod Downey

The Amateur Epidemiologist

32-bar Reel for three couples in a four-couple longwise set

Bars:

- 1 - 8 1st couple set, cross passing right shoulder (no hands), cast two places, dancing around 3rd couple to finish in the middle facing first corners. 2nd couple step up on bars 5 and 6.
- 9 – 16 1st couple dance set to corners and partners.
- 17 – 20 1st couple dance a half reel of four with first corners, finishing passing right shoulder to face second corners.
- 21 – 24 1st couple dance a half reel of four with second corners, ending in second place on opposite sides.
- 25 – 28 All three couples chase half-way around the set.
- 29 – 32 1st couple birl.

Repeat having passed a couple.

During the 2020 COVID-19 lock-down period, the whole nation became amateur epidemiologists and knowledgeably discussed weighty matters such as community transmission, flattening the curve and social distancing. The daily one o'clock briefings from the Prime Minister and Director General of Health became a daily fixture in many households as we eagerly awaited news about the number of new cases and whether we were flattening the curve.

The dance depicts some of the changes to our daily routines such acknowledging friends from afar on our daily walks, swerving off the footpath to keep two meters from other walkers and queuing for groceries. Finally lockdown ends and we are all able to mix again.

Devised by Andrew Oliver during the 2020 COVID-19 lock-down.

Recommended music: The Magic of Merrill (The Reel of Seven)

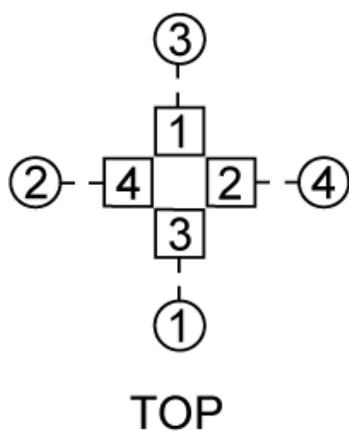
Best Set Squared (or Best Set²)

64 bar Jig for four couples in a square set

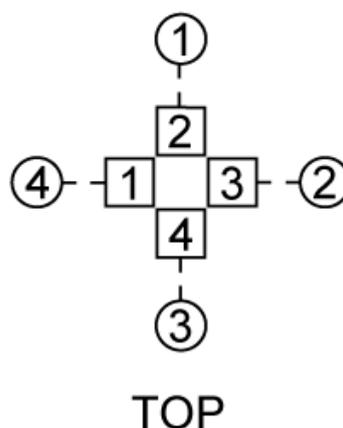
Bars:

- 1-8 All four ladies set, cast off behind partner, chase half-way around the set past the opposite man, and dance in to face him. Men are encouraged to take a small step to the right during the chase to 'square up'. All four ladies finish facing the opposite man, with backs to the centre.
- 9-16 All set. While the ladies cast right shoulder around each other to own sides, the men dance into the centre and swivel right to face their own side – finishing with backs to the centre. Set again, and the men cast right shoulder around each other to their opposite sides, while the ladies dance into the centre and swivel right to face one position on clockwise.
This movement can be thought of as a double 'set to corner and cast away'.
- 16-24 Repeat bars 9-16.
All set, the ladies cast right shoulder around each other to the opposite sideline, while men dance into the centre to finish with backs to the centre. Set again, and men cast right shoulder around each other out to own sides, while ladies dance forwards, aiming for the other side of the set. This flows into...
- 24-28 All chase clockwise half-way around the set. Ladies enter the chase *in front* of their partners.
- 28-32 All turn partners with the right hand, finishing with *men to the right of their partners*.
Two alternate options: this turn can be done with the right shoulder to make this a no-contact dance, or if it is safe to do so, partners may decide to birl here, being careful to finish with men finishing to the right of the lady.
- 33-64 Repeat bars 1-32 with Men as active dancers

End of Bar 8



End of Bar 16



Notes:

This dance is derived from 'Best Set in the Hall' by Helen Greenwood. I was curious if the dance, and in particular, the set to corners and cast away formation, could 'doubled'. The result was a square set dance, hence the name.

This dance was devised in May 2020 during the physical distancing times of COVID-19.

Devised by Xiaowen Yu

Bursting the Bubble

96 bar Jig, four couples in a square set

Bars:

- 1 - 8 All circle to the left all the way round and back to place.
- 9 – 16 Retaining hands, all advance for two steps then retire for two steps. All advance for two steps, let go hands to clap, retire for two steps without holding hands.
- 17 – 24 1st woman and 3rd woman dance around each other by the right shoulder keeping well apart; 1st woman and 3rd woman pull back left shoulder dance back around each other by the left shoulder to finish facing their corner person.
- 25 – 32 1st woman dances a loopy left shoulder reel across with 4th man and 2nd woman ending her own place **WHILE** 3rd woman dances a loopy left shoulder reel with 2nd man and 4th woman.
- 32 – 40 1st man and 3rd man dance around each other by the left shoulder keeping well apart; 1st man and 3rd man pull back right shoulder dance back around each other by the right shoulder to finish facing their corner person.
- 41 – 48 1st man dances a loopy right shoulder reel across with 2nd woman and 4th man ending in his own place **WHILE** 3rd man dances a loopy right shoulder reel with 4th woman and 2nd man.
- 49 – 56 2nd woman and 4th woman dance around each other by the right shoulder keeping well apart; 2nd woman and 4th woman pull back left shoulder dance back around each other by the left shoulder to finish facing their corner person.
- 57 – 64 2nd woman dances a loopy left shoulder reel, dancing up to start, with 1st man and 3rd woman ending in her own place **WHILE** 4th woman dances a loopy left shoulder reel, dancing down to start, with 3rd man and 1st woman.
- 65 – 72 2nd man and 4th man dance around each other by the left shoulder keeping well apart; 2nd man and 4th man pull back right shoulder dance back around each other by the right shoulder to finish facing their corner person.

- 73 – 80 2nd man dances a loopy right shoulder reel across with 3rd woman and 1st man ending in his own place **WHILE** 4th man dances a loopy right shoulder reel with 1st woman and 3rd man.
- 81 – 88 All advance for two steps, retire for two steps to place. All join hands and advance for two steps raising hands up like a crown, retire for two steps and form a circle.
- 89 – 96 All circle to the right all the way round.

Music: 3 by 32 bar Jig

Devised by Duncan McDonald April 2020

Devised during the Level 4 Lockdown phase of the Convid-19 pandemic, this dance portrays a group of people breaking their isolation bubble, mixing 2 at a time cautiously with others at the supermarket, then returning to the safety of their bubble.

Counting Teddy Bears

32 bar Jig for 3 couples in a three couple set

Bars:

- 1 - 8 1st couple cross passing right shoulders, all clap on first beat of first bar*. 1st couple cast down 2 places and 1st man follows 1st woman up the centre of the set, both turning to face down on bar 8, 1st woman above her partner. 2nd couple steps up on bars 3 and 4.
- 9 – 16 1st couple in tandem, 1st man leading, dance down for 4 bars, pull back on right shoulders to dance back up to finish facing first corners
- 17 - 20 1st couple dances Corners Pass and Turn with 1st corners – no hands given - i.e. corners and partners dance around each other finish facing 2nd corners.
- 21 - 24 1st couple dance Corners Pass and Turn with 2nd corners – no hands given – i.e. corners and partners dance around each other
Finish in 2nd place on own sides, facing out.
- 25 – 30 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance reel of Three on sides, in 6 bars, dancing couple giving right shoulder to person on their Right – i.e. 1st woman dancing down and 1st man dancing up.
- 31 - 32 1st woman, 3rd woman and 3rd man continue the reel for 2 more bars
WHILE
1st man casts to third place to finish 2 3 1

READY TO START AGAIN

*On the next iteration, all couples clap on bars 1 and 2.

The following time, all clap on bars 1,2 and 3.

Continue this pattern to the end of the dance.

Intended to get people laughing together as they attempt to keep track of the clapping bit

During the Lockdown, many people put Teddy Bears in their windows, for the amusement of youngsters and oldies, alike, who were encouraged to see how many they could find during their daily walks.

Devised during the COVID19 Lockdown by Mary McDonald April 2020

Covid – NZ Story

(Social Distancing)

32 bar Strathspey for a four couple set

Bars:

- 1 - 4 1st **position** woman followed by partner, dance down behind women's line and cross the set to finish in fourth position on opposite side, WHILE 4th **position** man followed by partner, dance up behind man's line and cross the set to finish in first position on opposite side.
- 5 - 8 2nd **position** woman followed by 3rd **position** woman dance up through top couple and cast down opposite side to new positions WHILE 3rd **position** man followed by 2nd **position** man dance down through bottom couple and cast up opposite side to new positions. (Order 4, 3, 2, 1 on opposite side)
- 9 – 12 All-Box Setting Individually i.e. (bar 9-set to the right with a quarter turn on the hop by pulling right shoulder back). Bar 10, 11, 12 – repeat with left, right and left foot to finish in original position having completed a square and passing back-to-back with partner on Bar 11.
- 13 – 16 Couple in 1st **position** - set and cast to 3rd position – WHILE couple in 3rd **position** - set and dance up the middle (no hands) to top position.
- 17 – 20 The top two men, also the bottom two women – set, then advance for one step and retire for one step. (no hands)
- 21 – 24 The top two women, also the bottom two men – repeat bars 17- 20.
- 25 – 32 All dance a Reel-of-Four on the side .
(finish 2, 3, 4, 1 all on opposite side)
- (repeat 3 more times from alternate sides)

Suitable recorded music: Bobby Brown Band. CD – Celtic Fire –
disc 2, track 9
(selection of Strathspey)

Devised: M. Waite April-May 2020 while in lockdown for Covid-19
Wellington Region RSCDS Challenge – Devise A Dance- “social distancing”

Story:

1. Bars 1-8) To begin, with social distancing strongly recommended, we had 2 days to return home ready for lockdown level 4.
2. Bars 9 -16) Lockdown in our Bubble. Essential workers maintain social distancing while Bubbles allowed minimum exercise.
3. Bars 17-24) Testing increases dramatically with Medics in PPE clothing and still social distancing.
4. Bars 25-32) Moving down the levels and out of lockdown, social distancing still the priority with less restrictions BUT will the end ever be the old normal again?

Masks and Faces

32 bar Strathspey for three couples in a three couple set

Bars:

- 1 - 6 1st, 2nd and 3rd couples dance reels of three on the side. 1st and 2nd men pass left shoulder to begin and 1st and 2nd woman pass right shoulder to begin.
- 7 - 8 1st and 2nd couples pass another shoulder to finish with 1st couple in second place and 2nd couple at the top. 2nd and 3rd couples dance the long way round into place.
- 9 - 12 1st couple dance “set and shuttle” with partner
- 9 – 10 1st couple set once. At the end of the left setting, they turn to the left to finish with the man facing up and the woman facing down.
- 11 - 12 1st couple dance across the set passing partner back to back in the middle – i.e. set to the right (step right, close left, step right and ‘pivot’ on the spot to face opposite sides while hopping on the right foot) then dance forwards into place on opposite sideline with a travelling step on the left.
- 13 - 20 1st couple dance half a reel of three across the dance with the 2nd and 3rd couples. 1st woman passes 2nd woman and 1st man passing 3rd man by the right, then dance a further half reel of three across the dance with 1st man passing 2nd man and 1st woman passing 3rd woman by the right.
- All finish in the order 2,1, 3 with 1st couple on opposite sides.
- 21 - 24 1st couple dance “set and shuttle” with partner to finish on own sides. On bar 22 the man will finish facing down and the woman facing up.
- 25 - 32 1st woman crosses down between 3rd couple, casts up round 3rd man, dances across the set and cast round 3rd woman to third place

WHILE

1st man dances across the set, cast down round 3rd woman, crosses up between 3rd couple and cast down round 3rd man to third place.
3rd couple step up on bars 31 & 32 and 1st couple face out to begin the dance when the dance is repeated.

Repeat with a new top couple.

Devised in August 2020 by Maureen Robson during the Covid 19 epidemic based on ideas from the dances “The Parting Kiss” in Iain Boyd’s book “May I have the Pleasure” and John Gregory’s dance “The After Supper Sweeper”.

Recommended music - "A Summer Meeting" played by Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent, track 10 on T.A.C 50th Anniversary Collection".

Play It Safe

32 bar Jig for 3 couples in 3 couple set

To comply with social distancing, all dancers should be 1 metre away from other dancers at all times and no hands given at any time.

Bars

- 1 - 8 1st couple set & cast to second place (2-bars to cast well out, 2-bars to dance into second place) 2nd couple step up 5-6, 1st couple set again.
- 9 – 16 2nd & 1st couples dance right hands across (no hands) for four bars back to place (1st man finishes facing out), then 1st and 3rd couples dance left hands across (no hands) for four bars back to place.
- 17 – 24 All 3 couples set, retire & advance, set.
- 25 – 32 1st couple cast off to below third place (four bars, 3rd couple step up 3-4). 1st couple turn right shoulder keeping at least 1 metre apart finishing in third place.

A new couple starts each time.

Note: 1st couple needs to dance just below third place on bars 25-28 so that they can complete the right shoulder turn without getting too close to the standing 2nd couple. They finish in third place.

Devised by Diane Bradshaw in response to the challenge to 'demonstrate social distancing' during Covid-19 in 2020.

Slow Down and Distance

Medley 64 bars (R32+S32) for 4 couples in a longwise set.

Reel Bars:

- 1 - 8 1st couple lead down the middle & back and finish between the 2nd couple in the middle in promenade hold.
- 9 - 16 1st couple in promenade hold dance a six bar reel of three across the dance with the 2nd couple giving right shoulder to the 2nd woman to begin. 1st couple dance up to top place on bars 15 and 16.
- 17 - 20 1st couple turn with the right hand and curve out to the side line in first place.
- 21 - 24 1st and 2nd couples dance set and link.
- 25 - 32 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance six hands around and back.

Strathspey Bars:

- 33 - 40 1st man, followed by his partner, dance down the middle for four steps, they turn right about and, with the woman leading, dance back up to finish in the middle of the set between 3rd couples remaining in tandem.
- 40 - 48 1st couple dance a 6 bar, tandem reel of three across the dance with the 3rd couple, right shoulder to the 3rd woman to begin. 1st couple dance up to second place on bars 47 and 48.
- 49 - 52 1st couple dance around one another by the right shoulder and curve to side line in second place.
- 53 - 56 1st and 3rd couples dance flirt and cast. (1st woman and 3rd man advance to start).
- 57 - 64 3rd, 1st and 4th couples chase around clockwise for four bars, cast and chase back to place.

Repeat with new top couple

Flirt and Cast (Devised by Gaye Collin)

Bars:

53 - 54 1st woman and 3rd man advance, pull back right shoulders and dance out to places, finishing facing out.

55 - 56 3rd man casts up while 1st man dances in, pulling right shoulder back finishing having exchanged places.

At the same time 1st woman casts while 3rd woman dances in, and curves to the right, changing places with the 1st woman.

Bars 55 – 56 are as for Set and Link

Notes: The dance depicts the difference between our normal frantically busy lives and the slower pace of life in lockdown, where social distancing is observed. Conceptually it is a 32 bar dance which is then repeated from 2nd place demonstrating social distancing.

Recommended music: The Perth Medley,
 Bobby Crowe and his Scottish Dance Band
 (This recording is 8 x 64 Bars).

Devised by Ann Oliver in July 2020 after Covid Lockdown in NZ

The Covid-19 Jig

32 bar Jig for three couples in a three-couple longwise set

Bars:

- 1 - 8 1st couple cast off and dance down behind their own line then cast up to place.
- 9 – 16 1st, 2nd and 3rd couples dance mirror reels of three on their own sides. 1st couple dance in and down to begin.
- 17 – 24 1st man (followed by 1st woman) cast off one place, cross over (2nd couple steps up), 1st couple cast off another place, cross over (3rd couple steps up). All face clockwise.
- 25 – 32 2nd couple, 3rd couple and 1st couple chase clockwise for four steps, pivot (Left shoulder back) and chase back to their own sides.

Repeat from new positions.

Devised by Lydia Hedge, Nova Scotia, Canada.
March 2020