

Rose

Square Set

Music: 'The Rose Tree' or any 4x32 bar tune with a bit of Scottish flair!

I wrote this dance having just come back from a week of dancing at Halsway Manor with the wonderful Frances Richardson calling, and the equally wonderful Mollie & Ali playing. It was a mixed week of English & Scottish dancing and I finally learnt how to dance a Strathspey properly!

It seems like there are so many different types of reels/heys, from Grimstocks to Morris Heys, Sheepskins to Dolphins, the list is endless. This dance includes a reel which we don't see all that often in English dances, the Shiehallion! It's a cracking little move, deceptively simple, but takes a full 16 bars to complete, hence why there's only a quarter of it in this dance!

- A1: (1-4) Face partner, set & turn RH nearly all the way to face corner
(5-8) Face corner, set & turn LH nearly all the way to face partner.
- A2: (1-8) Face partner for interlocking reels of 4
[Pass ptrnr R, No2 L, No3 R, turn back on No4; Pass No3 R, No2 L, pass ptrnr R finish with the ladies facing out, men facing in.]
- B1: (1-4) ¼ Shiehallion Reel finishing 1 place to the R.
*[1-2 Men dance to the where the lady is diagonally R and stay facing out
WHILST the ladies loop round into the man's place beside them
3-4 Ladies dance to where the man is diagonally R and stay facing our
WHILST the men loop into the ladies' place beside them.]*
(5-8) Partners 2HT
- B2: (1-4) All 8 circle L ½
(5-8) All 8 into middle & back.

The Shiehallion reel sounds daunting but once you've done it once, it's fine! During A1, depending on the recording you use, dancers may have to drive the turn slightly. But if danced with a proper 'skip change', it is much easier!

Progression: As couples 1 place clockwise.