

THE STRATHSPEY / REEL DUET

THE HIGHLAND SCHOTTISCHE variations, which open this dance, were seen at **Fort William Highland Games** in 1966 and whilst I am not certain whether the dance was performed in Competition or Exhibition, I have not seen the Steps performed elsewhere. The dance commenced with two dancers, one male and one female with inside arms linked, processing onto and around the Competition Board to the Bagpipes. From there the couple danced the standard Highland Schottische and variations.

Two of the Highland Schottische variations are included in the first sixteen bars of this duet, the remaining bars of the dance in Strathspey and Reel time being made up of Traditional Highland Steps and movements.

Only one minute and forty seconds worth of effort, this dance proved very useful either immediately after a more energetic dance or as a short encore for *The Highland Threesome*.

My admiration for the contemporary Ice Pair Skaters and in particular the spectacular ability of **Jo Jo Starbuck** with **Ken Shelley** who made a Thrown Double Axel look so graceful and so deceptively easy, provided the inspiration for the final 'Spin Out'. This ending,

which needs to be practiced and very carefully controlled,

was as close as I could get to the Thrown Double Axel!

There have been, and still are, many recordings consisting of 32 Bars Strathspey + 32 Bars Reel. The original music to which this dance was set came from another **Ian Powrie** recording, this time a Parlophone E.P. No. R5035. The arrangement was titled Dark Island, which was played by **Jimmy Blue**, followed by a 32 Strathspey + 32 Reel medley played by Ian Powrie and His Band. More recently **Frank Reid** introduced a little tickle of musical excitement with "The Mason's Apron" plus variations for the Reel time which fitted the dance.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patsy Robertson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

THE 4 x 4 STRATHSPEY / REEL DUET

LEANABH GILLE AGUS CAILEAG

(A Medley Duet for a Boy and a Girl)

32 Bars Strathspey + 32 Bars Reel



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

Instructions are now given for the Girl, the Boy dances Contra.

STRATHSPEY

Count 4 Beats / Bar to a total of 8

Bars Count

First Highland Schottische Variation.

1	1	Disassemble onto LF, pointing RF in 2 nd position.
	2	Hop LF, taking RF to 3 rd Rear Aerial position.
	3	Hop LF, placing R Heel in 2 nd position.
	4	Hop LF, pointing RF in 5 th position.

Common Schottische Setting Step - RF

2	5	Step on RF towards 2 nd position.
	6	Close LF in 5 th Rear position.
	7	Step on RF towards 2 nd position.
	8	Hop RF, taking LF to 3 rd Rear Aerial position.
3 – 4	1 – 8	Commencing with Hop RF instead of Disassemble, repeat Bars 1 - 2 Contra.
5 – 6	1 – 8	Execute 2 Common Schottische Setting Steps – RF, LF.

During Bars 7 – 8 the dancers execute a 3/4 Clockwise Rotation.

7	1,2	Step on RF (1), Hop RF, taking LF to 3 rd Rear Aerial position (2).
	3,4	Step on LF (3), Hop LF, taking RF to 3 rd Rear Aerial position (4).
8	5,6,7,8	Repeat Bar 7 to complete the 3/4 Clockwise Rotation to finish as in Fig. 2.

ARMS

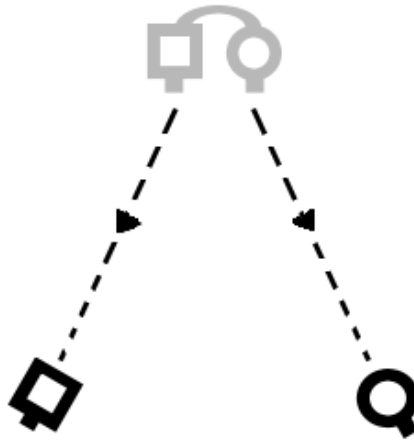
Ballroom Hold throughout

Second Highland Schottische Variation.

9	1	Hop LF, pointing RF in 2 nd position.
	2	Hop LF, taking RF to 3 rd Rear Aerial position.
	<u>3&</u>	HopLF, pointing RF in 3 rd position (<u>3</u>), extend RF to 2 nd Aerial position (<u>&</u>).
	4	Hop LF, execute a Shake movement RF.
10	5,6,7,8	Execute a Common Schottische Setting Step RF.
11 – 12	1 – 8	Repeat Bars 9 – 10 Contra.
13 – 14	1 – 8	Execute 2 Common Schottische Setting Steps RF, LF.

ARMS

Ballroom Hold throughout



**Floor Pattern 1.
Bars 15 - 16**

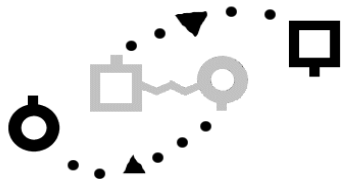
During Bars 15 – 16 the dancers separate and dance diagonally out, Boy to his Left, Girl towards her Right, as shown in Floor Pattern 1.

15 – 16	1 – 8	Releasing Ballroom Hold dance 2 Country Dance Strathspey Travelling Steps, Boy commencing with LF, Girl with RF dance diagonally towards the Front to finish in 1 st Raised position, facing slightly diagonally out as in Floor Pattern 1.
---------	-------	---

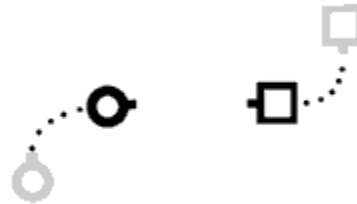
ARMS

Position	{Girl	Holding Skirt at the sides
	{Boy	1st
Count		1,2,3,4 , 5,6,7,8

28 5,6,7,8 The dancers continue the Right Hand turn with a LF Country Dance Strathspey Travelling Step / Highland Strathspey Progressive movement, to progress to positions shown in **Floor Pattern 3**.



Floor Pattern 4.
Bars 29 –30



Floor Pattern 5.
Bars 31 – 32

29 – 30 1,2,3,4 Releasing hands half way through Bar 29, with RF, LF Travelling /
5,6,7,8 Progressive Steps or movements, continue the rotation to finish in positions shown in **Floor Pattern 4**.

ARMS

Position	{ Girl	Holding Skirt	Joined R Hand	Holding Skirt
	{ Boy	3 rd	Joined RH / 2 nd L	3 rd
Count		1,2,3,4 , 5,6,7,8	1, 2	3, 4 , 5,6,7,8
Bar		◀25▶	◀26▶	◀---27---▶
			◀28▶	◀---29---▶
				◀30▶

31 1,2,3 Turning to their Right the Girl and Boy dance the first 3 Counts of a RF Country Dance Strathspey Step / Highland Strathspey Progressive Movement, to finish facing each other, about 7' apart, as in **Floor Pattern 5**.

32 4 Hop RF, extending LF to 2nd Aerial position.
5 Assemble, LF in 5th position.
6 Hold position.
7,8 Leap, landing RF in 5th position.

ARMS

Position	{ Girl	◀---Holding Skirt---▶
	{ Boy	3 rd 1 st
Count		1,2, 3,4 5,6,7,8

REEL

Count 2 Beats / Bar to a total of 8

Bar	Count	
1	1,2	Springing RF, LF, execute a Balance movement.
2	3	Spring onto RF, pointing LF in 5 th position.
	&	Step on L Heel towards 2 nd position.
	4	Close RF in 5 th Rear position, extending LF to 4 th Intermediate Aerial position.
3 – 4	5 – 8	Repeat Bars 1 – 2 Contra.

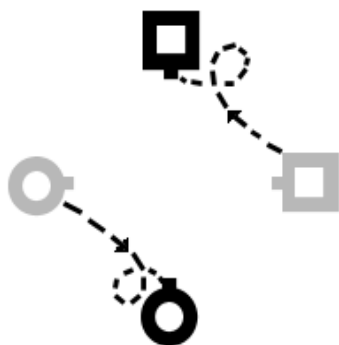
ARMS

Position { Girl Holding Dress lightly at the sides throughout

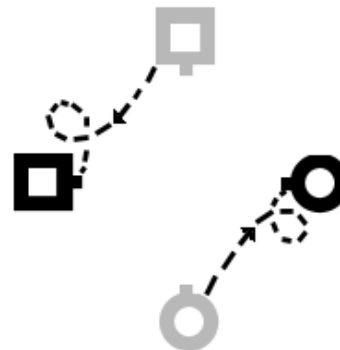
Boy 3rd ⇌ 4th ⇌ 3rd 2ndR 3rd ⇌ 4th ⇌ 3rd 2ndL

Count 1,2 3&4 5,6 7&8

5 – 8 1 – 8 Repeat Bars 1 – 4.



Floor Pattern 6
Bars 9 – 10



Floor Pattern 7.
Bars 13 - 14

Petronella Setting

9 – 10	1&2 , 3&4	Springing onto RF and turning to the Right, execute a “Petronella” pattern with 2 Pas de Basque. Finish as in Floor Pattern 6.
11 – 12	5&6 , 7&8	Facing Partner dance 2 Pas de Basque RF, LF.

ARMS

Position { Girl Holding Dress at the sides

{ Boy 1st

Count 1 - 8

13 – 14 1&2 , 3&4

Repeat Bars 1 – 4 progressing to finish as in **Floor Pattern 7.**, having changed places.



**Floor Pattern 8.
End of Bar 16**

15 5&6
16 7&8

Facing Partner dance 1 Pas de Basque RF.
With an approximate $\frac{5}{8}$ outward rotation to finish facing slightly towards diagonal Front as in **Floor Pattern 8.**, Pas de Basque LF.

ARMS

Position { Girl Holding Dress at the sides
 { Boy 1st
Count 1 – 8

Pas de Basque, Double Cut, Back Step

17 1&2
18 3&
4&

Pas de Basque RF.
Spring onto LF, Highcut RF.
Springing onto RF, execute a Backstep movement LF to finish with LF in 3rd Rear Aerial position.

ARMS

Position { Girl Holding Dress at the sides
 { Boy 1st 3rd
Count 1&2 3& 4&

19 – 20 5 – 8&

Repeat Bars 17 - 18 Contra.

21 1
&
2
22 3&4

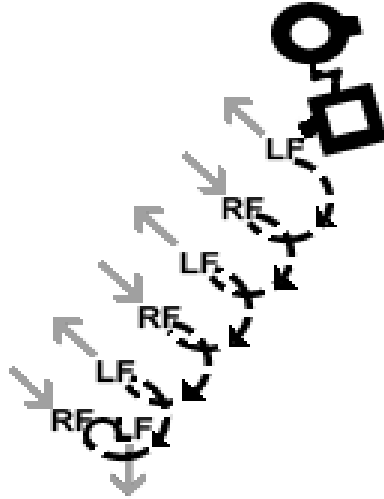
Spring onto RF, taking LF to 3rd Aerial position.
Step on L Heel towards 2nd position.
Close RF in 5th Rear position, extending LF to 2nd Aerial position.
Repeat Bar 21 Contra, omitting the final extension, to finish with R Heel in 5th position.

ARMS

Position { Girl Holding Dress at the sides
 { Boy 2ndR 2ndL
Count 1&2 3&4

The music now gradually increases in Tempo.

↖ The grey arrows indicate the direction the Girl is facing after each Step of the “Spin Out”



**Floor Pattern 10.
Bars 31 - 32**

29 – 30 1&2&3&4 Lowering their Left Arm from 2nd position the dancers join Left Hands below their Linked Right Arms and continue the propelled Pivot Turn in the same direction for approximately $1\frac{3}{8}$ clockwise rotation, speeding up with the music, to finish in positions shown in **Floor Pattern 10**.

ARMS

Position {Girl Right Arm Linked / Left Hand Joined
 {Boy Right Arm Linked / Left Hand Joined
Count 1 & 2 & 3 & 4

The Boy, gently swings the Girl into a ‘ Spin Out ’ on a line towards Right Diagonal Front shown in Floor Pattern 10.

31 – 32 & Step on LF
 5 Step on RF
 & Step on LF
 6 Step on RF
 & Step on LF
 7 Step on RF
 8 Close LF in 1st position, facing Front.

During Bars 31 – 32 the Boy stands in 1st position flat, facing Front, at the point that he was at the end of Bar 30.

		ARMS
Position	{Girl	Holding Dress at the sides
	{Boy	1 st
Count		& 5 & 6 & 7,8

The dance ends with the Girl being several feet in front of the Boy and slightly to his right. Both in 1st position flat, facing Front. After a few seconds the Boy walks to finish at the Left Hand Side of the Girl, they join hands – Bow / Curtsy.

I have to confess that, having created the “Spin Out” I have never personally danced Reel Time Bars 31-32, at dance speed, but both Joan and Linda seemed to have been able to do it without any apparent difficulty!!

If you have read this far it will, I am sure, have occurred to you that this dance could easily be performed by two female dancers, one in Aboyne costume the other in Highland dress.