

SHROPSHIRE MORRIS

Source : Abercorn Stave Dancers interpretation of mss.
Sticks : Short or medium length sticks, one each. Sloped over right shoulder when not being used.
Step : either single or double but not both.
Set : Even number of dancers, but unlimited (within reason!), start in a large ring facing the centre.

FIGURES

1. All dance to the centre of the ring and retire to their starting places, dance to the centre again, and retire only to form a column facing opposites ready for the first chorus.
2. All face up and Foot-Up-&-Back twice.
3. All dance a Cross-Over-&-Back, going as far as practical.
4. All face down and Foot-Down-&-Back twice.
5. Whole Rounds spiralling out to starting radius.

CHORUS ONE - "BEATINGS" - setting up the birds, shooting and celebrating.

ENDS : (a) dance down the middle to the other end in 4 bars, passing the other end by the right shoulder. Repeat to place after second part of the chorus.
 (b) tops down the middle and the bottoms up the outside, the bottoms casting out to start. Repeat with new tops.
 (c) both, casting out to start, change down outside of the set.
 (d) no changing ends, do as rest of set.

REST : retire with 4 walking steps, hitting the ground, /x - x -/ x x x -/
 approach with 3 steps and a spring, hitting the ground /x - x -/ then swing stick back and clash with opposite.

THEN all, including the ends, waist swing opposites for second part of each half of chorus.

CHORUS TWO - "RATTLING GOOD TIME"

Face across and stick in two rows.

Bar 1 : hit diagonally to right backhand, partner forehand, partner backhand, diagonally to left forehand.
 Bar 2 : hit diagonally to left forehand, partner backhand, partner forehand, diagonally to right backhand.
 Bar 3 : as bar 1.
 Bar 4 : single backhand hit of partner, pause, forehand of partner.
 Bar 5 : hit diagonally to left forehand, partner backhand, partner forehand, diagonally to right backhand.
 Bar 6 : hit diagonally to right backhand, partner forehand, partner backhand, diagonally to left forehand.
 Bar 7 : as bar 5.
 Bar 8 : single forehand hit of partner, pause, then another forehand..

dr p p dl/dl p p dr/dr p p dl/p - p - /

dl p p dr/dr p p dl/dl p p dr/p - p - //

CHORUS THREE - "HERE WE GO"

Face across in two rows.

Bars 1-4 : All dance the first half of a Back-to-back with opposite,
Bars 5-8 : All stick tap with opposite.
Bars 9-12 : All dance second half of Back-to-back with opposite,
Bars 14-16 : All stick tap as before.

SOURCE :

A letter sent to me in the very early 1960's when first getting interested in mss material, quoting,

“...the band would vary in numbers but the dances had similar patterns of going in and out, going up and down, crossing and back, going down and up and circling, interspersed with ingenious hitting of their sticks with the other dancers...”