

MORNING STAR

Source : film of Shropshire Bedlams on tour at a Bracknell Folk Festival.
Music : tune of that name from J Locke collected by C Sharp.
Steps : standard Bedlams step sequence of 1 h 2 h, 1 2 3 h.
Set : 8 dancers in two lines, each with a medium length stick.

Order of Movements :

A1 U-Hey top
B1 Chorus 1
A2 U-Hey bottom
B2 Chorus 1
A3 Waist Reel up
B3 Chorus 2
A4 Waist Reel down
B4 Chorus 2
A5 U-Hey top
B5 Chorus 1
A6 U-Hey bottom
B6 Chorus 2
A7 Chorus 1
B7 Chorus 2.

FIGURES :

U-HEY TOP : Progressive Reel of 8, both columns face up and start reel by the top pair, 1 and 2 crossing over at the top. It is not helpful to think of it as a circular hey without crossings at the bottom, but it is helpful to take it as a long reel of eight that has been bent at the middle into a U shape. The reel continues all the way round, so that every dancer works to both ends of the "U", passing their starting place, and back to place again finally. No sticking in the U-Hey.

U-HEY BOTTOM : Ditto but start facing down and cross only at the bottom.

WAIST REEL UP : All face up and link with opposites by putting inner arms around opposite's waist. Hey for four in pairs, with two loops only, the top pair starting it progressively by casting to their left.

WAIST REEL DOWN : Ditto but start by all facing down.

CHORUS :

1. Work in units of four : sticking for 8 bars, 2 bars repeated four times.

/ n p diag diag / p n diag diag /

n = strike neighbour, p = strike opposite, diag = diagonals clash, in the first bar the first corner both times over the second corner sticks and in the second bar the first corner both times under the second corner sticks.

2. In two lines, the following four bars repeated.

r diag l to r, l diag r to l, p l to r 2x / l diag, r diag, p r to l 2x /
r diag l to r, p r to l, p l to r, l diag r t l / l diag l to r, p l to r, r
diag l to r pause //