
SHEFFIELD CITY MORRIS - WORKSHOP NOTES

28/04/13

GENERAL

Sheffield City's main style is **Medup** and has both stick and hanky dances.

Right foot start, single stepping, lifting the feet (bicycle step). Set facing in, stick down to start.

In stick dances, the stick is gripped tightly and the bent arms are swung naturally. Making the figures big keeps this safe.

In hanky dances, the arms move down (and back), up, and circle above the head (up your nose). This three beat motion is held against four beats of music. All hanky movements are meant to flow continuously. There are no jerks or flicks.

Plain capers are done in fours, in extra bars at the end of music and hanky movement is up, down, sweep up and round, up. All motions are as large as possible.

Side steps are closed, turning 90 degrees and with hankies describing a circle above the head with the leading hand only. (side step right means turning left with right foot leading across left) 1,2,3 hop.

Six-man dances comprise cast, angles, three-top, half rounds and circles to finish or lead off with a chorus between each figure. Eight-man dances substitute four-top for three-top and hornby for circles.

If you explore the tradition further you will find a coming-on dance, column dance, a two stick dance, some distinctive steps (but not slows) and leapfrogging.

FIGURES

Cast

After six bars of the A music OTY, stick is lifted to the vertical. Then... Six man – 2 bars on the spot, 1 an 2 cast out, lines follow, return up the set (four bars). In last two bars of A music dance out (turning up) and back to place. For eight man dances the cast is in to the centre led in four pairs by 3,4,5 and 6.

Angles

Pass right shoulders and beyond the set(two bars), turn right and dance along the line (1 bar) turn right on the spot (1 bar), dance AT your partner spinning right as you pass right shoulders and back into place (2 bars), 2 bars on the spot, often moving to a chorus position.

Three-top

Based on a Chingford/Upton Hey-right ie a reel of three at each end started by middles dancing between ends. 1,3,4,6 follow the movement of this reel, BUT 2 and 5 face each other, dance one on the spot, pass left shoulders and sweep left across the other end of the set, turn left to face each other and pass right shoulders before sweeping right across their own end of the set to place.

Four-top

A reel of four across the ends of the set. 4 passes left shoulders with 1 as 2 dances one on the spot and 3 moves out and up the set ready to pass right shoulders with 4. Continue the reel and take an easy way into place. Bottom four similar with 5 passing left shoulders with 8 to start.

Half Rounds

As you pass right shoulders with partner, 2 and 5 or 7 turn sharp right, middles move faster to get beyond the set and turn right, 1 and 6 or 8 move to the opposite place and turn right. This has formed a circle. Dance this circle a quarter turn clockwise and open it out to two lines. The set is now at right angles to its original position, with sides reversed and wider. At the start of the seventh bar, surge forward to normal spacing and repeat back to place, passing left shoulders and turning left.

Circles (6-man)

Spin right, middles moving out to form a circle and dance clockwise for six bars. Turn to face in and end the dance with sticks as a pyramid in the air, or with four capers facing in for hanky dances.

Hornby (8-man)

5,6,7 and 8 spin left, 1,2 and 3 spin right, 4 moves directly to 5's position to start the interlocking figure of eight (white helmets display team). Back to place in six bars, turn in and finish dance as for circles.

SAMPLE DANCES

Strike the bell

A 6 man stick dance – chorus between each figure – B music twice.

Music used: *Click go the shears*.

Last two beats of A music **land to stand still** – left, right. Strike floor near left foot twice, then high backhand, forehand, backhand (1,2-1,2,3), then floor near right foot, high forehand, backhand, forehand (1,2-1,2,3). (four bars) Dance one on the spot, cross with partner, turn right into his place and **land** left, right to **repeat** the sticking. Cross over again back to place ready for the next figure.

Strike the bell <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qRBKNYwGaZk>

Langsett Hanky

An 8 man hanky dance – chorus between each figure.

Music used: *Langsett Hanky Dance* (music notation also available from the Morris Federation Notation library).

Side step right, side step left both in line. 8 single steps to change the shape of the set. Tops and bottoms move towards each other, middles back out and turn to become ends. Hankies are down, up, circle, down. **Repeat** in this new configuration and return to own place on the single steps.

Langsett hanky <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNm-9-oOr3U>

Grinder

An 8 man stick dance – **starts with a song** for OTY – **ends with last two bars of song** instead of music for the 'pyramid'. In this dance hit the floor before making the pyramid. Chorus – B music twice.

Music used: *Grinder* (music notation also available from the Morris Federation Notation library).

All clashing is done while dancing.

1,2 3,5 4,6 7,8 clash in pairs, forehand, backhand and then pass right shoulders to other position. Turn the easy way to face in, in two sets of four, hit the floor once (start of bar 3) as you rotate the set of four clockwise two places. **Repeat** from these new positions(ie 6,5 1,8 2,7 3,4). Then a whole hey – two reels of four - always starting with whoever is top going through the middle and whoever is bottom, going out at the sides. The set has now reversed, so alternate figures are danced from different positions and people alternate going in or out for the hey.

Grinder <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jxN35nlwxc>

There are other dances in this tradition to be found on YouTube, too.

FINALLY

If you'd like a workshop/training session, then we'd probably be able to travel to help you out.

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