

The Britannia Coco-Nut Dancers of Bacup, Lancashire dance a set of Quadrilles with garland to a set of tunes called Desideratum. These dances were supposed to have been first danced about 1860. It has been suggested that they are an adaptation of a set of Quadrilles used for social dancing or that they were borrowed from the neighbouring team in Whitworth.

The Garlands are made on a cane hoop in horseshoe shape, with enough flexibility to be crossed at the handles when required in the dances. The cane is bound with rag until about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in diam, then threaded over with a paper or cloth decoration, constructed like Xmas decorations, in red, white and blue.

There are five figures, but the 4th, a "waltz round", is seldom danced because the men dislike it. The four figures described are given the numbers that the leader Flynn calls to the band.

DANCE ON EASTER MONDAY ONLY AT BACUP.
STANDARD MOVEMENTS IN THE GARLAND DANCES

START or "Honour"

The 8 men stand in a square formation as for a Quadrille. The men are named Gents and Ladies as from the conventional country dance. The G have their sash over their right shoulders and the L over their left. Garlands raised on command "up", leader says "1,2" and each figure starts with a Once to Yourself of 8b length. During this the dancers turn to face their partner, take a long step back and bow to their partner from the waist, dipping their garland. They then step back to place and turn to their corner and bow in the same manner again. They then stand waiting till the end of the musical phrase, (4 more bars)

STEP

A skip is used generally in the garland dances.
The starting foot is usually the left.

BALANCE or "Chassez to middle and back" - 4 bars long.

Cu. face and join opposite hands, right to left, left to right, garlands together. Starting with the inside foot, ie nearest to centre of set not nearest to partner, sidestep to centre. On 2nd step cross outside foot across in front of the other, on the 4th beat hop on the inside foot and kick outside foot across towards centre of set. Sidestep back to place, starting outside foot and ending kicking inside foot across away from the centre. The Garlands are rocked away from the centre in the preparatory movement, then rocked in, out in as the pair sidestep in. Then rocked out, in, out as they sidestep out to place.

PROMENADE - 4 bars long

Partners face, join opposite hands so that the garlands are together, and walk round the set anticlockwise, rocking garlands from side to side, the first time towards the centre of the set. The G walks forward (L of D) and the L backwards.

SET - 1 beat only

Cross hands in front of chest so that the ends of the garland are crossed. Used at the start of many movements.

TURN

Partners face opposite ways, standing almost shoulder to shoulder, inside hands touching, garlands in one line. Usually a right hand or clockwise turn. Using skip step. The turns may be from a half (2 bars) to 2 complete circuits (8 bars). L continues turning to face front.

ENDING

The leader blows a whistle to signify the start of the last 8 bars.

All dancers face the centre and bow, lowering the garlands by rotating them till the hoop hangs down vertically.

Note that if a movement is completed before the end of the musical phrase, the dancers do not mark time but stand still.

FIGURE ONE - "Couples Cross" - B(A1A2B)⁴

02YS - after the bows the 1st cu stand ready, facing, garlands together and leaning out.

1 - 4 1st Cu balance

5 - 8 1st Cu set, turn by right once round, end facing front (easy way)

9 - 12 Head Gs, set 2 times, at start of bars 1 & 2 respectively, and cross over to opposite place with skip step, passing right shoulders and turn clockwise to face back and pause

13-16 Head Ls, set etc

- 17-20 Head Cus balance while side Cus set and turn by right once round
 21-24 Head Cus cross back to own place, moving as a Cu, passing to the left of the other facing the other Cu throughout, so turning clockwise as they go. They pass their opposite Cu face to face, through the small gap between the side Cus, who are doing another turn by the right.
 1 -24 2nd Cu lead
 1 -24 3rd Cu lead but in bars 9-16 Ls cross before Gs
 1 -24 4th Cu lead but in bars 9-16 Ls cross before Gs. End figure in bar 24 with nothing special.

FIGURE TWO - "Ladies Change" - A(BACA)²BA

- 1 - 8 Head Cus dance right and left hands across (star) with side Cu on their right, in same manner as a turn. Set at start and middle. Turn in half way.
 9 -16 Partners set, turn 2 times round by the right (6 bars) L turn $\frac{1}{2}$ clockwise to face front
 17-20 All the Ls move to the centre of the set into a small square in one bar, with a set on the first beat. Then they move to their right, setting again at the start of bar and turning $\frac{1}{4}$ anticlockwise and falling backwards into the place on the right hand side of the G on the right (ie move round one place anticlockwise in set), this move takes 2 bars and a beat or two so rest of time they mark time. G mark time through
 21-24 Gs move round one place, while Ls mark time.
 25-32 Repeat 17-24 to end in opposite place to starting position.
 33-36 Partners promenade half way round set to original place
 37-40 Partners set, turn once around by the right
 41-80 Repeat - Head Cus go to left first to do hands across, but 17-40 as before.

FIGURE THREE - "Two Ladies Chain and Forward Up Six" - (ABCB)⁴

- 1 - 4 Head Cus face, both set, head Ls $\frac{1}{2}$ Ladies Chain - pass by the right, and turn opposite G by left; G first dances $\frac{1}{2}$ round anticlock to partners place to face approaching. Sometimes lazy and just move sideways to the right to be ready for the turn.
 5 - 8 Keeping facing direction travelling, they set, and return to place, passing by right and turn by left, and end with the Ls standing on the left side of the side Cus (each 3 now in order L G L). The Head Gs turn the easy way to face in.
 9 -12 Forward up 6 - lines of 3 walk forward, to the left of person opposite (right shoulder to shoulder, l,r,l, kick r forward, and walk back to starting point with r,l,r, together.
 13-16 Repeat with opposite footing but to the same side.
 17-20 The spare (head) Gs step to the centre, "step" and go back to place thus: Step forward on left; hop left and with a good swing into right across left; feet together; jump, tending to turn a little to right before landing; turn clockwise once around on balls of feet, on spot ending facing opposite again; feet together; move a pace back; bow to opposite.
 21-24 All set, turn partner once round by the right - head Gs start from where they are.
 25-28 All to middle and back, facing centre throughout, walk step, l,r,l, kick r forward, and r,l,r, together backwards. Hands touch to form circle when all in middle.
 29-32 All set, turn partner once round by right.
 1 -32 Side Cus lead, side Ls go to stand by Cu on right & lines of 3 go to left both times
 1 -32 Head Cus lead, head Gs go to stand by Cu on left & lines of 3 go to right both times
 1 -32 Side Cus lead, side Gs go to stand by Cu on left & lines of 3 go to right both times

FIGURE FIVE - "Four Ladies Chain and Stepping" - AB(AABBA)⁴A

- 02YS 16 bars - bows in first 4 bars
 1 - 4 All set, 4 ladies chain, Ls right hands to centre when passing, and turn opposite G left $\frac{1}{2}$ round. G dances round anticlock to partner's place to face approaching L
 5 - 8 All set and repeat to place. End facing partner in place.
 9 -16 Set, turn partner by right twice round
 17-20 First Cu balance
 21-24 All set, and turn partner right hand $\frac{3}{4}$ round till Ls left shoulders to middle facing anticlock, Gs on outside facing clockwise, partners touching inside hands.
 25-26 Cross stepping - right foot across in front of left: right foot to side: right foot across again: brush right foot back alongside left.
 27-28 Right hand turn of partner $\frac{1}{2}$ way round to change places with partner, 4 walking start with right foot.
 29-32 Cross stepping and right hand turn again as 25-28
 33-36 Cross stepping and right hand turn $\frac{1}{2}$ round again
 36-40 Cus continue turn once more round ($1\frac{1}{2}$ all together) to end face front.

Repeat all 3 more times with each Cu in turn leading bars 17-20. End dance with all to middle and back and turn partner once round.

FIG. 1.

A.

B.

FIG. 2.

A.

B.

C.

FIG. 3.

THE NUTS

FIG. 5.

Bacup.

