

HORWICH

- Source** : As taught by Rivington Morris at 38th Sidmouth Festival 1992, at the Experienced North West Morris Workshop, Friday 7th August 1992. This is a version of the Horwich dance due to be published by Prue Boswell but with a few changes.
(a) it uses slings instead of sticks.
(b) a figure, FEATHER, has been added.
- Step** : polka step, has two straight lifts per polka, down and up.
- Slings** : “twiddle” = one hand over the head and the other with the back of the hand in the middle of the small of the back.

WALK-UP - before every figure.

Start on the inside foot. Walk forward three steps and tap the free foot just in front. Retire three steps and end feet together. Repeat all this. Slings circle forward and up when moving forward and down and back when moving backwards.

1. CAST

Slings over shoulders. Cast in pairs from the top, every two bars, down the outside of the set to the bottom and come up the middle of the set, fairly close together.

Nos 1 & 2 turn in to come up on bar 5, face up in centre on bar 6, start to twiddle the sling in the outside hand in bar 7.

Nos 3 & 4 turn in to come up on bar 7, face up in centre on bar 8, start to twiddle the outside sling in bar 9, the inside sling being over the shoulder.

Nos 5 & 6 do ditto in bars 9, 10, 11.

Nos 7 & 8 do ditto in bars 11, 12 and 13. Ones at the back do not get much of a twiddle!

All stop twiddling at end of bar 14, putting slings over shoulders, and all move sideways out to place in bars 15-16.

2. CROSS OVER

Cross over in 3 polkas, starting with the same inside foot and twiddling the outside arm. Turn to the right all the way to face back on bar 4. Back to place on 3 polkas and turn up in bar 4.

3. RIGHT HAND STAR

This is “wrist-gripping” star, holding the wrist of the dancer in front.

The first polka is into position, facing round clockwise, the 2nd polka to take the wrist grip, and the 3rd polka to start to twiddle the free hand and go round once in the star. Drop the arm in bar 6, let go of the wrist grip in bar 7 and come out in bar 8 going forwards.

4. LEFT HAND STAR

As Fig 3 in reverse.

5. FEATHER

Start facing across the set. Nos 2 & 7 dance as “posts”, 4 polkas on the spot, twiddling the opposite sling to the foot forward, as in the Cross Over. The others cross the set diagonally passing right shoulders with their right diagonal.

Then whoever is in the No 1 & 8 places (the original 4 & 5) dance on the spot, while the other cross the set diagonally again. Those going up keep going up the set, and those going down, keep going down, alternate corners acting as posts. 4 changes reverse the set, 8 changes get them back to place.

1 2	4 2	4 6	8 6	8 7
3 4	6 1	2 8	7 4	6 5
				half way
5 6	8 3	1 7	5 2	4 3
7 8	7 5	3 5	3 1	2 1

It is important that at each turn the dancers line up with their opposites, and then before each crossing catch the eye of the diagonal to be crossed with, as then it should be obvious who it is. All passings are by the right.

6. PROMENADE

In this figure it is important to watch that pairs are opposite.

Nos 3 & 4, 7 & 8, form lines of four, 1 polka to move into the middle and 1 polka to move up the centre into the line of four.

The top row splits, 1 & 3, 2 & 4, rotating as pairs, facing out in the 3rd polka, and facing down outside the set in the 4th polka. They dance down the outside and turn in bar 8 and face up in bar 9 and come up to place.

The second line casts out on polka 6, goes down the outside, passes the other line, turns in on 11 and up on 12.

The two lines of four are held for bars 13-14. In bar 15 the lines break with the second pairs retiring, and then in bar 16 moving out to the side and to place.

7. HEY

Reels of four on the sides. Nos 1 & 2, 5 & 6, start by going down and in and the others up and out and into the weaving. 2 Polkas for each passing, 16 bars in all.

8. FINAL FIGURE

With slings over shoulders, cast to the bottom and come up with different cross spacings to form a V, with its point at the top. Stand still for 6-8 drum beats and no music, then to an A music, then move off casting into a single file, alternate twiddles, perhaps into a “motor-bike” and off.