

MOBBERLEY - near KNUTSFORD

Source: E. Benson of Altrincham whose own morris team in the late 1920's in Altrincham was taught by a Mobberley dancer. The Mobberley team was in existence as a men's side from the early to late 1920's, later mixed or a girls' side. Still danced.

Sticks: sticks with paper "buzz-fuzz" at one end, normally held forward about 45 deg in figs or waved from the wrist, not the arms, to right and left in chorus in parallel

Step : single step hop with knee raised high, thigh horizontal. It was considered cheating bring the free foot up behind the knee and it lost points. Start right foot, left up.

Music : "95" or "100 Pipers" played by a brass band.

INTRO & CHORUS as Cranford.

1. Outsides from top (16 steps), up middle with crossed sticks (16 steps), 8 steps to place, 8 facing up.
2. Left file cross to position behind right file, right file cross to vacated places next, left file cross back to behind others again, right file then cross back to place.
3. "Twos" - 8 steps to meet, 8 steps half way round with high sticks in centre, 8 steps half way back, 8 steps out to place. (low sticks in centre coming back?)
4. "Fours" - 8 steps to meet in 4's, 8 steps half way round with low sticks in centre, 8 steps back, having turned in and 8 out to place. When sticks high (low) in centre the other arm is low (high) so that slope is along both arms. When turn half way in. "fours" do not change slope so that it is a high cross in centre coming back.
5. Chain in line, turn on first beat to right for 1's and 2's (ie top pairs of 4's). Chain all the way down & back to place with windmill arms.

Finish with chorus and sticks down.

MOBBERLEY - for 16 - collected by Bentley

Music: "95" or "100 Pipers"

Step: Hopstep, knee up to hip level, foot not thrown forward. All start left foot and right knee up. 2 steps per bar.

All face up set unless stated otherwise.

Hands: stationary above head when moving, except in Grand Chain.

CHORUS: dance in position - 8 bars on spot at start of the dance, between the figures and at the end.

1. "twos in centre" - partners - 4 bars to meet partners, 4 bars turn of partner with right hands raised in centre, 4 bars back with the left hand raised, 4 bars retire to place.
2. "sides" - whole set - set casts off from top, meet partner at bottom and dance up centre with arms out sideways to form arches as they come up (16 bars) Dance 4 bars on spot facing up still close together. Turn to face partner and drop back to original place (4 bars)
3. "fours in centre" - in 4's - as fig 1 but in 4's.
4. "lines cross" - partners - the right file step on the spot facing up while the left hand file crosses over to right side of set, facing up all the time, taking positions behind their partners (8 bars). Dance in line for 8 bars. Go back to place the same way taking 8 bars. Dance in place in files facing up 8 bars.
- Repeat with right hand file crossing to left hand side etc.
- "Grand chain" - sides - hey on each side and back to place (16 bars) hands make alternate overarm movements as in the swimming "crawl" stroke.

Source: taught by D Robinson at Sidmouth 1977. As done by a women's side in 1920's.


Mobberley currently a mens side .Altrincham was mixed, now a teenagers side.

Music : jigs

Sticks: 2 sticks. Do not dance up in air too much. Held vertically, not waved when moving

Wave from wrist only, when stepping on spot.

Step ; high hopsteps with foot flung forward and toe pointed forward.

CHORUS: face up. Left foot start, on spot, for 16 steps. Swing hands to right and then left. Bring hands down on last beat. 

"Outsiders" - outside and up middle. Cast out to bottom, 16 steps. Up middle with inside hands up crossed and outside hands up, 16 steps. Face outwards & 8 steps out to position and face up for 8 steps.

"Two's" - approach partner, slightly to left in line, right hand raise and make arch with partner, 8 steps. Dance round to face place, 8 steps, turn in, make a left arch and go back half way round again to face out to own place, 8 steps. Dance out to place, 8 steps.

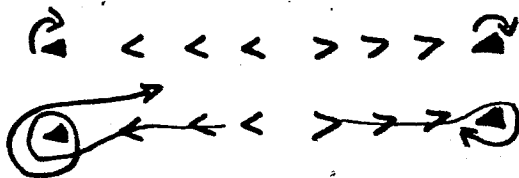
"Cross Over Facing Up" - odds cross over & stand behind partner, 16 steps. Evens cross over to odds side, 16 steps. Odds back 16 steps to behind evens. Evens cross back, 16 steps.

"4's" - turn to face in, approach 8 steps to form a right hand star, inside hand up, outside sloped down. 8 steps half way round, turn in, 8 steps back with low star with left hand. Face out & 8 steps to place, both hands up & forward as illustrated above.

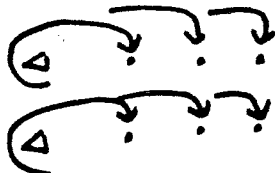
"Chain in Line in 4's" - nos 1 & 2 turn to right, right hand up. Hey on sides and back to place (if 16 dancers, still work in 4's on sides) When at top or bottom need a change without a passing (an imaginary left) 4 steps to each change. Put up inside hands in passing & clash tips.

"Figure Eight" - start swagger round, lines move up, turn in and change sides, odds pass left shoulders with evens. When half way round, cross back to own side still going down. Repeat from bottom, crossing half way back to place. Then dance outsides - come up middle close together. Turn out and 8 steps to place.

"Long Corners" - 16 dancers are needed for this figure. All face up in 8's. Bottom 8 face down, top 8 face up. The 4 corners of the set (1, 2, 15, 16) stand, facing up & step on spot. Everybody goes once round corner at least then crosses the whole diagonal. Other diagonal goes round corner again, to get a time difference into the crossings and then crosses their diagonal. Each group of 3 does a complete circle around the corner at the other end of the diagonal before coming back.



The 2nd diagonal crosses first, so only go round their corner a  $\frac{1}{2}$  turn before going off along diagonal. The 1st diagonal does a turn and a half before setting out. Note that all these turns around corners are clockwise.



Break out into column as come round own corner dancer clockwise and fall into own place as it is reached.

"Chain in Line with 16" - start all face up. Pass right shoulder, windmill hands, 4 steps each pass, hit together on 3rd beat, hit high. Move up to top before going back.

"Grand Chain" - come in progressively. Start by crossing at top. Top pair cross, pass right shoulders. Step on spot till top pair reach to keep spacing even when all the way round the set.