

MANLEY MORRIS

The following is based primarily on performances at Bebbington May Festival, 25.5.68, (indoors as wet), New Brighton Folk Festival, 15.6.68, (film taken), and Stratford-on-Avon Ring Meeting, 28.6.69.

COSTUME

Hat - felt with most of brim timmed off. Decorated with feathers, mirrors, etc.

Shirt - white. Wide red and blue diagonal sashes, one over each shoulder, red over blue, red over inside shoulder. Wide yellow waist band over the sashes tied on outside, ends hanging down. Blue ribbon round elbow, red ribbon round wrist, tied in bow on outside - ribbon about 30 ins. long when untied. Three rows of beads round neck.

Trousers - black velvet breeches. Decorated with two red stripes down outside of each leg ending at bottom with small yellow bow. Between the stripes is a yellow zig-zag. Breeches fastened with buckle on outside of knee.

White socks.

Clogs - from clogger in Warrington, said to be the best. Known as Drakes, leather worked, brass nails, bells on laces, irons.

Slings - yellow, blue and red ribbons tied round in that order, red at end.

GENERAL

Do not dance with Centres.

Stops and starts controlled by whistle but most figures called by name. Conductor would chivy dancers if going poorly and would get them to repeat badly done figures.

Stated that any combination of movements is possible. The usual performance contains two sequences (have seen three). Neither is fixed but the first usually includes stepping in 4's and 8's, advance and stepping with both hands on partner's shoulders and ends with Cross Morris. The second sequence is usually shorter and includes advance danced facing out, Double Dutch and Coronation Hey and leads into processional off.

STEPPING

Basic polka step has the forward foot slightly crossed over, but there is no snatch back as at Royton.

Usual starting foot is inside foot, i.e. right for odds, left for evens. On the few times that it is necessary to change feet to have team all on same foot the last bar of polka is replaced with 2 springy steps.

In the NUMBER ONE sequence, the free foot is lifted up not forward on the springs. The slinging is ic ic / tw tw oc - /

In the NUMBER TWO sequence, the free foot is placed forward and to side, brought back behind supporting foot and rested on toe, then apart, cross apart in front of supporting foot and finally brushed back by side of supporting foot.

SLINGING

The men do not make much difference between "tw" and "oc".  
In Step-up it is ic ic / oc oc / etc.

"tw" are at twice the speed of "oc".

(Abbreviations page 6.)

PROCESSIONAL - very much as at Royton.

Once-to-Self:

8 bars doing nothing then 8 bars slinging.

lps rps / lps rps / lps ic / oc oc / standing still

March:

A music - 16 bars, slinging as Once-to-self.

Figures to B music between each March are danced without set moving forward very much.

Figures regularly used are:-

One-Half:

As in set dance.

Turn-Round:

Not as in set dance. Start facing forward and all moving slowly forward, all make complete turn clockwise with 2 spring capers, slinging oc oc / oc cross hands in front /. Then walk forward 4 steps, slinging ic ic / oc oc / then repeat, all turning clockwise again. In the spring capers the clogs are deliberately hit together in the spring-rhythm.

Cross-Sides:

Face partner to start, change sides moving diagonally forward, all making a complete turn clockwise while crossing; repeat to place ending all facing up. Left hand column passes in front of right each time. Each time seen, the movement was untidy as direction of turns not always consistent.

SET DANCE

Versions are used of all the Royton figures except Cross-sides-and-go-round-him.

Polka-on-spot used in fixed sequences, to change formation and to give conductor time to think.

Inside used only in a sequence in form of Number-Three.

Outside used only to get back into column formation in a sequence after dancing 4 or 8 in line.

Lead-them-round used only to change ends of set before start of dance proper.

In-and-out only done half.

FIGURES

How far previously unrecorded movements derive from Royton is unknown.

The conductor called what he wanted but there are customary sequences such that one has the impression of a dance with only minor changes in detail from performance to performance.

SEQUENCE ONE (80 bars - 1½ mins.)Step-up-and-back:

Done twice, 8 bars.

Polka:

2 bars facing up, 6 bars facing partner, in place.

Advance:

As Royton, ending both hands on partner's shoulders.

Number-Two:

As Royton, partners on opposite feet, odds start right foot to side.

Turn-Round:

Move back to place making whole turn downwards with 2 steps swinging free leg back on middle beats as a "hitch", and without raising supporting foot off ground, slings oc (2 bars). Step-up towards partner, slinging ic ic / oc oc / (2 bars). Move back to place making complete turn up with same hitch step (2 bars). Form up into Up-in-Fours position by first and third couples falling back a little to stand outside second and fourth couples who move up a little (2 bars).

Up-in-Fours:

Hands on neighbour's shoulders so that only ends can sling. Dance One-Number-One, odds starting right, evens left (8 bars), then Number-Two all starting right foot to side (8 bars).

Outside:

Polka and cast out to form column facing down. Bottom line of 4 comes up middle as far as possible before separating (8 bars).

Step-down-and-back:

Not always used (8 bars).

In-and-out:

Used to get back to places facing up (8 bars).

SEQUENCE TWO (80 bars - 1½ mins.)Step-up-and-back: (8bars)Polka:

Dancers polka sideways into one file odds in front of evens' partners. Starting with opposite feet, 4 bars into line, 4 bars stationary in file while each man places both hands on shoulders of man in front of him. In this formation only front man can sling. All arrange to start next figure on same foot.

Two-Number-Ones:

(8 bars), start right foot.

Number-Two:

(8 bars), start left foot.

Polka:

Top couple separate and polka sideways, others move up and separate to form a line of 8 across with back men in the centre. In eight in line men have hands on neighbour's shoulders only the men at ends can sling (8 bars).

Two-Number-Ones: (8 bars).

Number-Two: (8 bars).

Polka:

Polka and cast into column facing down (8 bars).

Number-Three:

Ending with both hands on partner's shoulders.

Number-Two:

Hands on shoulders position.

Once saw them get to eight in line from eight in file by quick  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn anticlockwise to face left on spot. To get back to column turned  $\frac{1}{4}$  to face up then polka sideways.

SEQUENCE THREE (80 bars)

Step-up-and-back: (8 bars).

Polka:

(8 bars), facing up.

Double-Dutch:

(16 bars), all face partner to start. After each change face front or direction one is to move off. In general turns go the easy way facing person one is changing with. All changes done passing right shoulders. Each change takes 2 bars. Polka step and slings twist.

(1)  $\begin{matrix} 2 \searrow 4 \\ 1 \searrow 3 \end{matrix}$   $\begin{matrix} 6 \searrow 8 \\ 5 \searrow 7 \end{matrix}$  (2)  $\begin{matrix} 3 \searrow 4 \\ 1 \searrow 2 \end{matrix}$   $\begin{matrix} 7 \searrow 8 \\ 5 \searrow 6 \end{matrix}$  (3)  $\begin{matrix} 1 \searrow 3 \\ 4 \searrow 2 \end{matrix}$   $\begin{matrix} 1 \searrow 7 \\ 2 \searrow 8 \end{matrix}$   $\begin{matrix} 5 \searrow 1 \\ 6 \searrow 4 \end{matrix}$  (4)  $\begin{matrix} 8 \searrow 7 \\ 2 \searrow 1 \end{matrix}$

(5)  $\begin{matrix} 4 \searrow 8 \\ 3 \searrow 7 \end{matrix}$   $\begin{matrix} 2 \searrow 6 \\ 1 \searrow 5 \end{matrix}$  (6)  $\begin{matrix} 7 \searrow 8 \\ 3 \searrow 4 \end{matrix}$   $\begin{matrix} 5 \searrow 6 \\ 1 \searrow 2 \end{matrix}$  etc. ending facing down.

Step-down-and-back:

(8 bars), not always used.

Coronation Hey:

(16 bars), used to get back to place. Start all face down.

Bars 1 - 4, second and fourth couple polka on spot facing down. First couple turn in dance between second couple into third couple's place facing fourth couple and facing up. Third couple dance up outside second couple and turn to face up and face second couple.

7 5  $\leftarrow$  3 1 to 7) <1 3) <5

Bars 5 - 8, second and fourth couple change places, fourth moving up outside ending facing up, second casting in and ending at top facing down.

7  $\leftarrow$  1 3 5 to 3) <1 7) <5

Bars 9 - 16, dance a number one facing (2 bars), then polka to change places passing right shoulders and all ending facing up turning the easy way (6 bars).

Step-up-and-back:

(8 bars), usually a polka facing up to precede next family of movements.

OTHER FIGURES

Manley usually dance sequence one at start of first dance and the following shortened sequence at start of second dance.

Step-up-and-back: (8 bars).

Polka:

Face up 3 bars, turn to face outwards (1 bar) and polka facing outwards.

Advance:

As sequence one, facing out, turn to face partner on polka in bars 7 - 8.

Number-Two: facing partner.

Other figures do not seem to be used in any fixed sequence.

Number-One-and-turn:

A One-Number-One step sequence with clockwise half turns on second step of bars 1 and 5. Danced on spot in column formation. Usually followed by Number-Two.

Number-One-and-Cross-over:

A number one stepping on spot (2 bars) and cross over to partner's place with polka (2 bars), odds file behind evens, face up throughout, repeat to place. Usually followed by Step-up rather than Number-Two.

Number-One-and-Mossley:

A number one (2 bars) followed by a Mossley (2 bars). Repeated. Followed by Number-Two.

Right-and-Left:

Corners cross, second corners go first, i.e. 3 & 2, 7 & 6. Polka figure..

Bars 1 - 2, when 3 & 2 cross, 3 makes  $\frac{1}{2}$  turn clock and 2 a  $\frac{1}{2}$  turn anticlock, 3 passes to left of 2 when passing, both are facing same way diagonally downwards, 3 in front of 2.

Bars 3 - 4, 1 & 4 cross, 1 turning anticlock and 4 clockwise, so that in passing both are facing same way, diagonally up, 1 in front of 4.

Bars 5 - 8, repeat to place facing other way.

As might be expected, the side often gets some of turns wrong.

Gipsy:

This is a combination of whole gip with partner and with man along the line. Men face up and polka throughout the figure.

Bars 9 - 2, polka sideways and cross with partner, odds behind evens.

Bars 3 - 4, first couple and third couple dance backwards between the other couples who dance forward up outside the others.

Bars 5 - 6, partners change back, odds still behind evens.

Bars 7 - 8, first and third couples dance up outside to place and other couples dance backwards to place.

Each has danced a square facing up throughout.

One, Two and Three-Number-One, Single Mossley, etc. done in column facing up. It will be noticed that sequences are arranged to bring a reversed set back to place as soon as possible.

#### One-Half:

1st/3rd couples face down and polka down middle putting inside hands on partner's shoulder at start of 2nd bar, then polka on spot facing down in other couples' place for bars 3 - 4. Other couples start by moving up and turn to face down in other's place, hands on shoulder in 4th bar. 1st/3rd couples split and cast up at start of bar 5, other couples move down and split in bar 6. End facing up.

### Swing Movement Abbreviations

tw = twist above head like helicopter blades.

ic = inside circles i.e. swings circled inside at waist height across the front of the body



oc = outside circles, at waist height at sides of the body.



lps = left parallel swing, both swings describe figure of 8 in parallel, to left hand side of body at below waist height in a horizontal plane.



rps = as lps, but to the right hand side of body.

NUMBER FOUR, NANCY DAWSON or CROSS MORRIS

Similar but differing in details from Royton. For example, start facing otherway, start on other foot, only one spring caper, no turn when crossed over, end in one line. Notation as per Royton.

odds face down, evens up                      move backwards, odds up evens down  
 l.            r. / l.                      / r.                      / l.                      /  
 sideways to left to change  
 places passing back to back  
 clogs hit together at r.

face same way still                       $\frac{3}{4}$  turn clockwise to face front  
 r.            l. / r.                      / l.                      / r.                      /  
 sideways to right to place  
 passing face to face

face front  
 l.                      / stamp r.                      / r.                      / stamp l.                      /  
 l.                      / r.                      / l.                      / stamp r.                      /  
 complete turn clockwise .. .. .. .. face front  
 r.                      / l.                      / r.                      / stamp l.                      /  
 complete turn anticlockwise .. .. .. face up & down as start

Repeat from beginning to complete turn clockwise which ends, instead of a stamp, with the men jumping forward with a spring, kicking foot forward, landing feet together in one line down centre of set, odds facing front, etc., partners standing side by side and raising joined hands between them (right hands). Of course other turn is not done.

DANCE ORDER

Stratford - Dance One - Lead-them- $\frac{1}{2}$ -round, SEQUENCE ONE, One-Half, Cross-sides, SEQUENCE TWO, Swing-Partners, Step-up, Gipsy, Polka, No. 1-and-turn, No. 2, No. 1-and-cross, Step-up, Polka, CROSS MORRIS.

Dance Two - Step-up, Polka, Advance-outwards, No. 2, SEQUENCE THREE, Polka, No. 1-and-Mossley, No. 2, Step-up, Polka, March.

Bebbington - Dance One - SEQUENCE ONE, One-Half, Step-up, Right-and-Left, Hands-across, SEQUENCE TWO, Swing-Partners, Step-up, Gipsy, Single Mossley, No. 2, Polka, CROSS MORRIS.

Dance Two - Step-up, Polka, Advance-outwards, No. 2, Hands-across-and-back, Step-up, One-Half, 3 No. 1, No. 2, Step-up, Gipsy, No. 1-and-turns, No. 2, No. 1-and-cross-over, SEQUENCE THREE.

Dance Three - Step-up, One-half, Right-and-Left, SEQUENCE ONE, Step-up, Gipsy, Step-up, No. 1-and-turns, No. 2, No. 1-and-cross, Step-up, Polka, No. 1-and-Mossley, No. 2, Step-up, Polka, CROSS MORRIS.

Dance Four - Step-up, Polka, Advance-outward, No. 2, Cross-sides, Single Mossley, Hands-across-and-back, SEQUENCE THREE, No. 1-and-cross, Step-up, Polka. (I will not guarantee these 4 orders

New Brighton - was filming - saw all figures danced, although did not record all.